



Redeemer  
Presbyterian Church  
exists to see our city  
renewed by the gospel  
of Jesus Christ.

*Love God*  
*Love People*  
*Love Tyler*

## The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

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*Good Friday: Service of Darkness*  
**April 18, 2025**

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all  
who struggle and desire victory; to all who  
sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers  
and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst  
after righteousness; and to all who will  
come—this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the  
Lord Jesus Christ.*

Welcome and Introduction to Liturgy

Greeting and Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Blessed be our God.

**People:** *Forever and ever. Amen.*

**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.*

Opening Hymn | Were You There

*Southern spiritual, music by Clint Wells (2009)*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?  
Sometimes I feel like shouting glory,  
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?*

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.

Passion Reading, Part IV | John 19.38-42

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Concluding Prayer

**Leader:** 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 forever. *Amen.*

Please Exit the Building in Silence

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished;” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would 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. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

**Hymn | Have Mercy**

*Words and Music by Sandra McCracken (2015); additional verses, M. K. Travis (2023)*

*Have mercy on me,  
Have mercy on me,  
Oh God, have mercy  
Oh God, have mercy*

*We, too, have Christ betrayed  
We, too, have turned away  
Oh God, have mercy  
Oh God, have mercy*

*We, too, cried “Crucify!”  
We, too, have pierced his side  
Oh God, have mercy  
Oh God, have mercy*

*Oh help our unbelief  
Oh help our unbelief  
Oh God, have mercy  
Oh God, have mercy*

**Psalm Reading | Psalm 22**

[1] My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? \* Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?  
[2] O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, \* and by night, but I find no rest.  
[3] Yet you are holy, \* enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
[4] In you our fathers trusted; \* they trusted, and you delivered them.  
[5] To you they cried and were rescued; \* in you they trusted and were not put to shame.  
[6] But I am a worm and not a man, \* scorned by mankind and despised by the people.  
[7] All who see me mock me; \* they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;  
[8] “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; \* let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”  
[9] Yet you are he who took me from the womb; \* you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.  
[10] On you was I cast from my birth, \* and from my mother's womb you have been my God.  
[11] Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \* and there is none to help.  
[12] Many bulls encompass me; \* strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
[13] they open wide their mouths at me, \* like a ravening and roaring lion.  
[14] I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; \* my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;  
[15] my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; \* you lay me in the dust of death.  
[16] For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; \* they have pierced my hands and feet—  
[17] I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; \* [18] they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.  
[19] But you, O LORD, do not be far off! \* O you my help, come quickly to my aid!  
[20] Deliver my soul from the sword, \* my precious life from the power of the dog!  
[21] Save me from the mouth of the lion! \* You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!  
[22] I will tell of your name to my brothers; \* in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
[23] You who fear the LORD, praise him! \* All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
[24] For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, \* but has heard, when he cried to him.  
[25] From you comes my praise in the great congregation; \* my vows I will perform before those who fear him.  
[26] The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! \* May your hearts live forever!  
[27] All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.  
[28] For kingship belongs to the LORD, \* and he rules over the nations.  
[29] All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; \* before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.  
[30] Posterity shall serve him; \* it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;  
[31] they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, \* that he has done it.

Passion Reading, Part I | John 18.1-11

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Hymn | Go to Dark Gethsemane  
Words by James Montgomery (1850) Music by Kevin Twit (2007)

*Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with Him one bitter hour  
Turn not from His griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray  
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray, learn of Jesus Christ to pray.*

*See Him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross  
Learn of Christ to bear the cross, learn of Christ to bear the cross.*

*Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at His feet  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die  
Learn of Jesus Christ to die, learn of Jesus Christ to die.*

Passion Reading, Part III | John 19.1-37

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, “See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.” 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” 13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 15 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.”

\*\*Please rise.\*\*

16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, 17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did these things, 25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

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 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 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.*

**Passion Reading, Part II | John 18.12-40**

12 So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. 13 First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. 17 The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” 22 When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” 24 Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” 26 One of the servants 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?” 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed. 28 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” 30 They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” 31 Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” 32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” 35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 40 They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

Homily | The Lamb

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Homily Text | Revelation 21.22-27

[22] And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. [26] They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. [27] But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Hymn | O Sacred Head Now Wounded

*Words by Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th century, music by Hans Leo Hasler (1601)*

*O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down;  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.*

*What thou, my Lord, hast suffered, Was all for sinners' gain:  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;  
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow, To thank thee, dearest Friend,  
For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever; And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.*

The Solemn Collects

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son 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.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;  
For its unity in witness and service  
For all church leaders and ministers and the people whom they serve  
For all Christians in this community  
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 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*