



One: But Jesus gave him no answer. From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,
Choir: If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.
 One: 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,
Pilate: Here is your King!
 One: They cried out,
All: Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!
Pilate: Shall I crucify your King?
All: We have no king but the emperor.
 One: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Fifth Reading: We Kill the Flame		John 19:17-30 Susan Curry
The Response	<i>Forsaken</i>	Dan Forrest
The Sixth Reading: He is Entombed		John 19:31-42 Craig Henry
The Stripping of the Altar		
The Final Question	“Were You There?”	Deborah Chandler

Please depart in silence



At Northminster, Everyone Is a Minister

Our Equipping Ministers

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jillian Hankamer	Director of Music: Rev. Dr. Deborah Chandler
Organist/Musician in Residence: Rev. Dr. D.H. Clark	Music Associate: Mr. Justin Havard
Choral Associate: Miss Naomi Kilpatrick	Admin. Assistant: Ms. Renee Decker
In Memoriam Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Senior Pastor 1992-2016	

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Good Friday
April 3, 2026

Preparing to Enter the Story

"The cross is not and cannot be loved." – Jürgen Moltmann

The Holy Friday Procession Francis Poulenc, tr. D. H. Clark
Final Tableau from *Dialogues Des Carmélites*

*The Roll Call

One: Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

Voice: I am here.

One: Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

Voice: I am here.

One: Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

Voice: I am here.

One: Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

Voice: I am here.

One: Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

Voice: I am here.

One: The story of Christ's suffering and death mirrors for each of us our own weaknesses and failures. Yet this is the moment to have courage, to look bravely into that mirror, for how else would the story ever end differently?
People of God, are you prepared?

Many: By God's grace, we are.

One: Then let us begin.

*The Hymn No. 223 What Wondrous Love Is This
(Stanzas 1 and 2) WONDROUS LOVE

The Death of Love

The First Reading: An Arrest in the Shadows John 18:1-14
Scott Higginbotham

The Response *Journey to Gethsemane* REDHEAD NO. 76

The Second Reading: His Closest Friends Deny Him John 18:15-18, 25b-27
Charles Creech

The Response *Ah, Holy Jesus* HERZLIEBSTER JESU

The Third Reading: The Religious Fail to Recognize Him John 18:19-24
Barbara Thompson

The Response *Ave Verum Corpus* W. A. Mozart
(Hail, true Body)

The Fourth Reading: Love Rejected John 18:28-38a
Carol Ann Tubbs

The Response *And Can It Be* Dan Forrest

Responsive Reading Based on John 18:38b-19:16

One: Pilate went out to the Jews and told them,
Pilate: 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?

One: They shouted in reply,

Choir: Not this man, but Barabbas!

One: Now Barabbas was a bandit. 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,

Pilate: Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.

One: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Here is the man!

One: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

All: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.

Choir: We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.

One: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,

Pilate: Where are you from?

(continued)