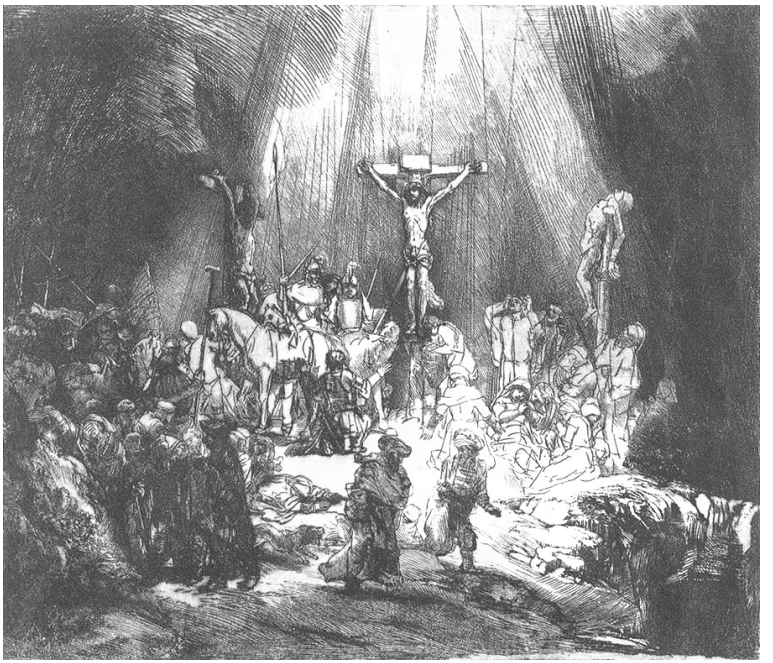


Good Friday

Seven o'clock in evening
Friday, April 18, 2025

Christ Church, New Brunswick
St. Alban's Church, New Brunswick
in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

2025 Presiding Bishop's Letter to Congregations



Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Lent 2025

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

For 103 years, the Good Friday Offering has supported the ministry of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This Lent, the need is almost unfathomable, and I ask you to join me in making a generous gift at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

We do not know what the political future of the Holy Land will be; but whatever that future, our siblings in Christ in The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East will continue to serve God's people through their congregations, hospitals, schools, orphanages, and humanitarian aid programs. These vital ministries serve people of all faiths without distinction, bearing witness to the power of hope and healing across divides.

Your gift to the Good Friday Offering will support ministry at al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which has continued to provide essential health care services despite the violence of war; St. George's in Baghdad, Iraq, and its medical center; an eye clinic at Christ Church in Yemen; and the powerful Christian presence of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Damascus, Syria, and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beirut, Lebanon.

It is easy to feel powerless in the face of the human suffering we have witnessed in the Holy Land, but with a gift to the Good Friday Offering at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering, we can help The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East turn despair into hope for thousands of God's people across their region.

Thank you for your generous support this Lent.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe The Episcopal Church

+Sean

To make your gift today:

- Scan the QR code at right
- Visit iam.ec/goodfridayoffering
- Send a check with "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line to:
  The Episcopal Church (DFMS)
  PO Box 958983
  St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Information, including bulletin covers, inserts, and more, is available at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering. Questions may be directed to Archdeacon Paul Feheley, Middle East partnership officer, at pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6222.

THE LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the middle of the *Triduum*, the three-days space starting with Maundy Thursday and ending at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The traditional elements of the Good Friday liturgy include the reading of the Passion of our Lord from the Gospel of John and the Solemn Collects, a form of prayers associated with this service since the third century.

We invite you to pray, sing, listen to the silence, and reflect as we contemplate Christ's mighty act of redemption on the Cross.

THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION ON GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the one day in the church year when it is forbidden to celebrate the Eucharist. On this day, the true offering is the one Christ makes on the cross, not the one we might make on an altar. However, the Church does permit Christians to receive Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament, should they wish to do so.



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Cover art: Rembrandt, The Three Crosses

The Liturgy for
GOOD FRIDAY

All who are able please stand as the silent procession begins

All who are able then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Presider stands and begins the liturgy with the Collect of the Day.

Presider Blessed be our God.
People **For ever and ever. Amen.**
Presider 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.
People **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12*

Reader *A reading from the prophet Isaiah.* 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.

Silence is kept for a space

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:1-2, 7-8, 14-21 **Red LEVAS *Hymnal II, 276***

Congregation please sing the Refrain.



My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

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.

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."

Refrain

14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Refrain

16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count my bones.

17 They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

18 Be not far away, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

19 Save me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.

Refrain

20 Save me from the lion's mouth,
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

21 I will declare your Name to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:16-25

Reader *A reading from Hebrews.* The Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Silence is kept for a space

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

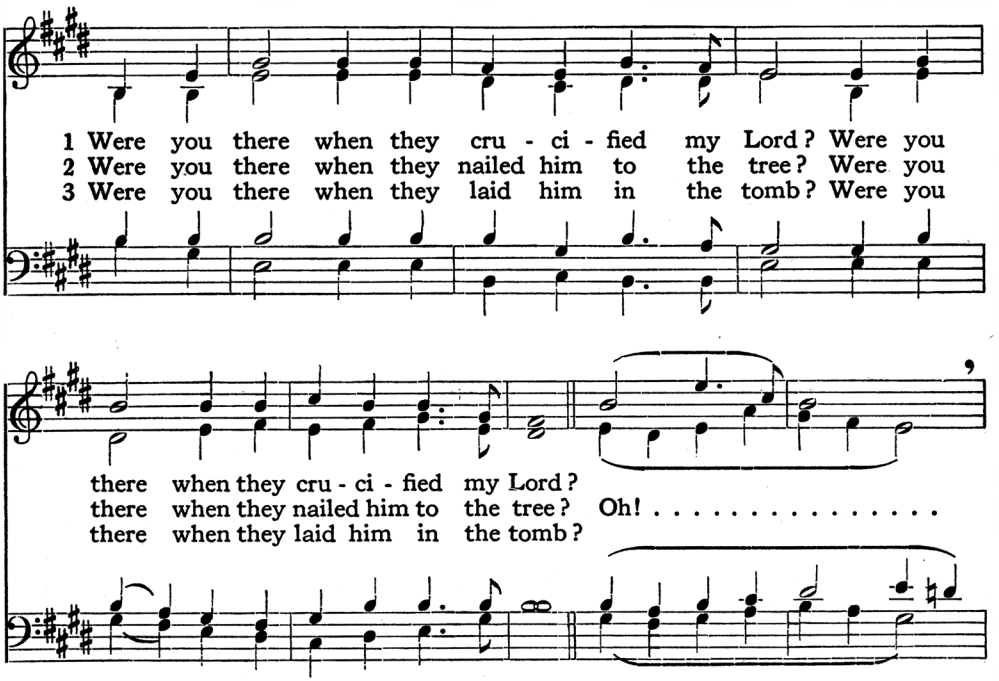
People **Thanks be to God.**

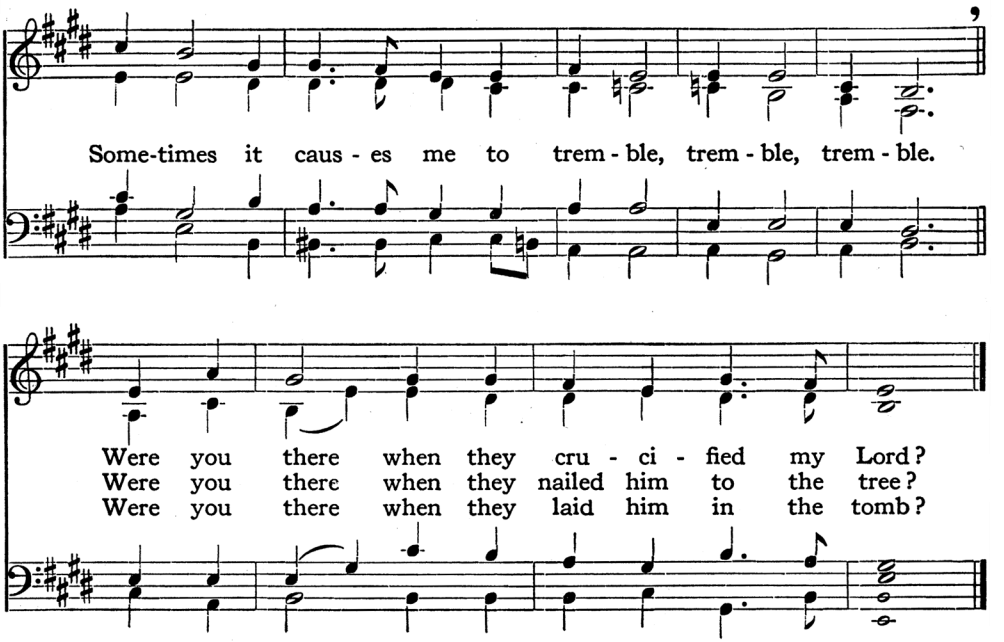
All who are able please stand and sing

HYMN

WERE YOU THERE

African-American Spiritual





THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *John 18:1 – 19:42*

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Because the Gospel of John was written during the time that those persons of Jewish and Gentile origin who chose to follow Jesus were separating from the synagogues where they had been worshiping for about a century, the text reflects the hostility and tension of its time in its depiction of the Jewish people. Obviously, Jesus and the twelve disciples and many of Christ's earliest followers were Jewish, and Jesus worked most of his miracles out of his love for Jewish individuals. Historically, however, the St. John Passion has been used to fuel anti-Semitic beliefs and actions throughout the Christian world. For this reason, the church affirms that such actions are utterly to be condemned. When you hear "the Jews" in today's reading, please remember that they refer to a small group of Jewish leaders, and not to our fellow chosen people of God.

Please follow the reading on the inserts found in your pew. The customary responses are omitted. Please be seated for the first part of the Passion, then stand and kneel where indicated in your Passion insert.

A period of silence follows the reading of the Passion.

SERMON *The Rev. Joanna Hollis*

The Solemn Collects

All who are able please stand

Intercessor 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.

Silence

Intercessor 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 William, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese; for all Christians in this community; for those about to be baptized, that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

Silence

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

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor 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 disabled; 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

Presider 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 our 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.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor 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

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

Silence

Intercessor 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

Presider 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

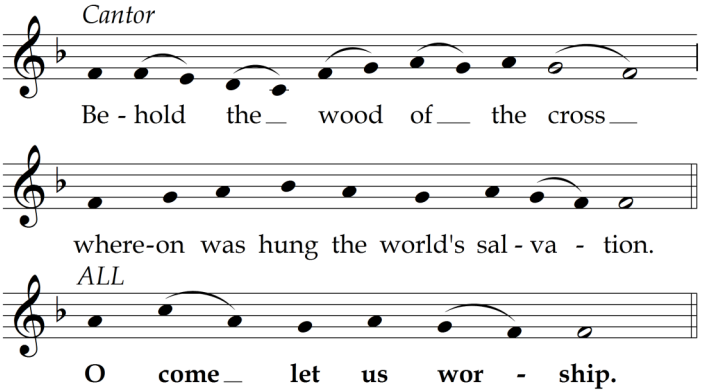
whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Devotions Before the Cross

All who are able please kneel

A large crucifix has been placed in front of the altar. As it is unveiled, the cantor sings the following three times:



After a period of silent prayer, those who wish may come forward to the cross to pray.

During the devotions before the cross, the congregation is invited to sing this Taizé chant with the choir

ANTHEM O Sorrow Deep Christ Church Choir

O Sorrow deep! Who would not weep
With heartfelt pain and sighing!
God the Father's only Son
In the tomb is lying.

The Pascal Lamb, like Isaac's ram,
In blood was offered for us,
Pouring out his life that he,
Might to life restore us.
Blest shall they be, eternally

In blood was offered for us,
That the glorious Prince of Life
Should in death be sleeping.

O Jesus blest, my help and rest,
With tears I pray thee, hear me:
Now, and even unto death,
Dearest Lord, be near me.

At the conclusion of the devotions, all who are able please stand and sing the following hymn. During the singing of the hymn, an offering will be collected to benefit the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

OFFERTORY HYMN

PETRA

Text: James Montgomery, Tune: Richard Redhead
Blue *Hymnal 1982*, #171



HOLY COMMUNION

The Reserved Sacrament is placed on the altar. The Deacon says

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept, then all say together

ALL **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

ALL **Amen.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

ALL **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 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.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation.

Many Christians choose to fast from receiving Communion on Good Friday, in order to emphasize for themselves the death of God. However, many other Christians choose to receive, in order to emphasize the abiding presence of God, even in the times of greatest desolation. We honor your choice today, and trust that it will help you to be fully present to God.

All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this evening, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the Communicants with these words

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Recipient **Amen.**

Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Recipient **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

PASSION CHORALE

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1656, tr. Composite;
Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601, harm. J.S. Bach



After Communion

All who are able please stand. The service concludes with the following prayer. No blessing or dismissal is added.

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

The Ministers process out of the church in silence, and then all may leave quietly.



Assisting in Worship

The Rev. Salvador Ros, *Presider*
The Rev. Joanna Hollis, *Preacher*
The Rev. Deacon Daphne Roberts, *Assisting Clergy*
TBD, *Old Testament,*
Jonathan Gloster, *Evangelist*
Candace Walcott-Shepard, *Jesus*
TBD, *Gatekeeper,*
Enid Atkins, *Peter*
TBD, *One of the Police*
TBD, *Slave*
Lisa Browne, *Pilate*
TBD, *Intercessor*
TBD, *Usher*

ST. ALBAN'S
EASTER SCHEDULE 2025

April 20~ Easter Sunday:
The Sunday of the Resurrection
11:00 a.m. Bilingual Eucharist (English & Spanish)

Parking is available directly across the street at the Livingston Elementary School on the corner of Delavan Street.



CHRIST CHURCH
HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025



April 19 ~ Holy Saturday
8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter
Christ Church

April 20~ Easter Sunday:
The Sunday of the Resurrection
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist *

An Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service

*Incense will be used at these services.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

APRIL 17-19, 2025
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY

taking faith home

Jesus was faithful to the end.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

Thursday	**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**	**Jesus gives a new commandment**
Friday	**John 18:1—19:42**	**The suffering and death of Jesus**
Saturday	**1 Peter 4:1-8**	**Conversion of life**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

One of the slaves 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 [Jesus]?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.
John 18:26-27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:
Merciful God, you know our weaknesses and our need for forgiveness and new beginnings; we give you our thanks and praise for the constant love you show us through Jesus Christ and his crucifixion. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Loving God, all that is good and loving comes from you. May this food, a gift of your love, strengthen us to trust in Jesus and to be faithful followers. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Christ's love and faithfulness give you good courage.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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APRIL 17-19, 2025

taking faith home

HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

Stay with Me

HOLY WEEK MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When has it been difficult for you to stand up for a friend?
- Who first told you the story of Jesus' journey to the cross?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:1–19:42.

While Jesus is put on trial, others are also on trial. Three times Peter is asked if he knows Jesus. One time Peter is asked directly if he is one of Jesus' disciples, to which Peter clearly responds, *"I am not"* (18:17). The Jewish leaders also find themselves put on trial by their conversation with Pilate. The religious leaders eventually give in to Pilate and say, *"We have no king but the emperor"* (19:15). Religious leaders choose a false god over the God of Israel. Jesus' own disciples deny him, betray him, or run away from his hour of death. Only the beloved disciple stands with Jesus' mother at the foot of the cross. Jesus' crucifixion leads us to wonder when we, ourselves, deny Jesus, seek false gods, and run from the truth. We are freed to face our own limitations knowing that Jesus died for us precisely because of our failures, not because of our successes. We may turn away from Jesus Christ in ways we barely recognize, but thanks be to God, our Lord Jesus Christ never wavered on his way to the cross and never turns away from us now.

Discuss: When has there been a time you turned away from Jesus to find a safer, easier path?

Pray: **Compassionate God, you know our failures, our fears, and our running away from you; through it all, we thank you for Jesus, the one who remained faithful to you and to us until his last breath. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for Holy Week, who could you pray for during this Holy Week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Just before Jesus' betrayal and arrest, he went to the Mount of Olives. The disciples followed him. Jesus said to them, *"Pray that you may not come into the time of trial"* (Luke 22:40b). Then he went a short distance away from them, knelt, and prayed. Reflect on the words that Jesus taught us to pray found in Luke 11:4b: *"And do not bring us to the time of trial."* Take a moment to sit in silence and think about what this means. Finish by reading the words of the Lord's Prayer you have written around the cross drawn on the paper on the first week in Lent: **Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**



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