



## ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise, welcome, and serve:**

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge and Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Music Director

**Palm Sunday**

March 29, 2026

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*Celebrant:* We acknowledge that the land we now occupy is the ancestral home of the Wabanaki People. We grieve the history of greed and violence that led to their loss of life, land, language and culture.

*Congregation:* **We pray for the courage to find ways to support our indigenous neighbors who still face injustice and prejudice. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we belong to the Earth.**

### **The Liturgy of the Palms**

*Celebrant:* Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Congregation:* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

### **The Blessing of the Palms**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Congregation:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

*The palms are distributed among the people*

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Procession**

*Celebrant:* Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Congregation:* **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in peace.

*Congregation:* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The Congregation processes around the nave*

**Hymn 154** *All glory, laud and honor (in back of bulletin)*

*After the congregation has arrived in their pews, the following is said:*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

*The congregation sits.*

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **First Lesson: Isaiah 50: 4-11**

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant,

who walks in darkness and has no light,

yet trusts in the name of the LORD and relies upon his God?

But all of you are kindlers of fire, lighters of firebrands.

Walk in the flame of your fire, and among the brands that you have kindled!

This is what you shall have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

*Leader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying.

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31

S 414

Robert Knox Kennedy  
(b. 1945)



In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;<sup>\*</sup>  
in your righteousness de-liver me. ||

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.<sup>\*</sup>

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

**You are indeed my rock and my fortress;<sup>\*</sup>**

**for your name's sake lead me and guide me, ||**

**take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.<sup>\*</sup>**

**Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.<sup>\*</sup>

I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my af-fliction; ||  
you have taken heed of my adversities, and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;<sup>\*</sup>  
you have set my feet in a broad place.

**Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in dis-tress;<sup>\*</sup>**

**my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. ||**

**For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;<sup>\*</sup>**

**my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste a-way.**

I am the scorn of all my adversaries.<sup>\*</sup>

a horror to my neighbors, ||

an object of dread to my ac-quaintances;<sup>\*</sup>

those who see me in the street flee from me.

**I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;<sup>\*</sup>**

**I have become like a broken vessel. ||**

**For I hear the whispering of many — terror all a-round!—<sup>\*</sup>**

**as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.**

But I trust in you, O LORD.<sup>\*</sup>

I say, "You are my God." ||

My times are in your hand.<sup>\*</sup>

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.<sup>\*</sup>

Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD, for I call on you; ||

let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.<sup>\*</sup>

let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently

against the righteous with pride and con-tempt.

**O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you,\*  
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone! ||  
In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots;\*  
you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.**

Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me\*  
when I was beset as a city under siege. ||

I had said in my alarm, "I am driven far from your sight."\*

But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.

**Love the LORD, all you his saints. The LORD preserves the faithful,\*  
but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. ||**

**Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
all you who wait for the LORD.**

### **Second Lesson: Letter to the Philippians 2: 5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hear what the Spirit is saying

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 435** *At the Name of Jesus (verses 1-4, in back of bulletin)*

*Celebrant:* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

*See page 16 for the Passion narrative.*

*Silence will commence and end with the sounding of the bell.*

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

*Leader:* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

*Leader:* For all people in their daily life and work;

*Congregation:* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For this community, our nation and the world;

*Congregation:* **For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For the just and proper use of your creation;

*Congregation:* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

*Congregation:* **For those who minister to the sick, the lonely and the stranger among us.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*Congregation:* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For our Presiding Bishop Sean, and our Bishop Thomas, and for all bishops and other ministers;

*Congregation:* **For all who serve God in the Church.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* For all who are searching for your healing waters in the desert of their lives;

*Congregation:* **For those in need of healing of mind, body or spirit.**

*Silence*

*Leader:* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;

*Congregation:* **For all those gifts that bring us joy, open our hearts and give us courage.**

*Silence*

We pray for all those who have died, trusting that they are held in your eternal grace. We pray for those who grieve.

*Silence*

*Leader:* Please add your prayers and thanksgivings.

*All are invited to add their own prayers here.*

Are there any people on Zoom who would like to add their prayers and thanksgivings?

*Leader:* All these things we ask, O Lord, trusting that you meet us always in the desert of our lives, offering the healing waters of your love and grace.

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* Peace within yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with you who are with us remotely today.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*The people exchange the peace.*

### **The Holy Eucharist**

**Offertory Hymn 158** *Ah, Holy Jesus (verses 1-3, in back of bulletin)*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*Congregation:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Congregation:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus S-124**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Celebrant:* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:



Our father in heaven hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom, come  
Your will be done on earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Save us from the time of trial and de-liver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power  
And the glory are yours  
Now and for-ever, A-men.

### **Fraction Anthem**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*Celebrant and Congregation:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. United by the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine and in countless other ways in our lives. As a community of faith, nothing can separate us from the love of God nor are we separated from one another.**

The gifts of God for the people of God ...

*Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine.*

*Celebrant:* And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

**Gracious and Holy One, you have met us in our desert places, and have fed us with the bread and wine of your incarnate presence. Send us forth now in the power of your Spirit, that all might know the healing waters of your grace and love. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May God the Creator find you in your desert places.

May God the Redeemer lead you to the spring of life.

May God the Spirit fill you with courage and hope for the living of these days,

and may you know it to be all joy.  
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
*Congregation: Amen.*

**Sending Hymn 168** *O sacred head, sore wounded (verses 1-3, in back of bulletin)*

**Postlude:** *O Sacred Head*

Johann Waganaar

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

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### **GIVING OUR PRIORITIES SHAPE (GPS) ACTION ITEM**

#### **LOVE IN ACTION**

**Lenten practice?** How to respond with hope, gratitude, compassion, and love in the midst of very unsettling, unprecedented times of misuse of power, absence of truth-telling, disregard of common good, democratic and constitutional norms.

**Practice resistance** to the forces of fear, violence, and war that are swirling around our country and world.

#### *Resistance is...*

*Joining the Island Peace and Justice Vigil* on Mondays from 4-4:30  
directly across from the Deer Isle Stonington High School

*Joining* with Sunset Congregational Church friends on Thursdays at 3 PM  
for a Vigil for peace and loving kindness  
57 Church St (Route 15)

*Speaking freely and without fear*, whether in public demonstration  
or with your group of friends

*Refusing to use simplistic language* that pits groups against each other

*Taking a break from media* when it stokes your fear and anger

*Getting to know your neighbor*, especially those unlike yourself

*Not losing hope* that there is some good in this world and it's worth fighting for

## CALENDAR


**All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.**

Sunday, March 29	2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross Art Exhibit Opening
Monday, March 30	8:30 a.m. Simmering Pot 4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday through Saturday March 31-April 4	1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross Art Exhibit open
Wednesday, April 1	10:00 a.m. In-person Meditation 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)
Maundy Thursday, April 2	5:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, The Rev. Stephen Hayward presiding
Good Friday, April 3	5:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling presiding
Saturday, April 4	7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter at St. Francis, Blue Hill
Easter Sunday, April 5	6:00 a.m. Easter Service at Commercial Pier, Stonington 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Pastor Elaine Hewes presiding

### Looking Ahead

Tuesday through Saturday April 7-April 11	1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross Art Exhibit open
Saturday, April 11	4:00 p.m. Jazz Concert with Scott Cleveland (piano and vocals) and Aiden Fiori (electric bass). Suggested donation is \$20.

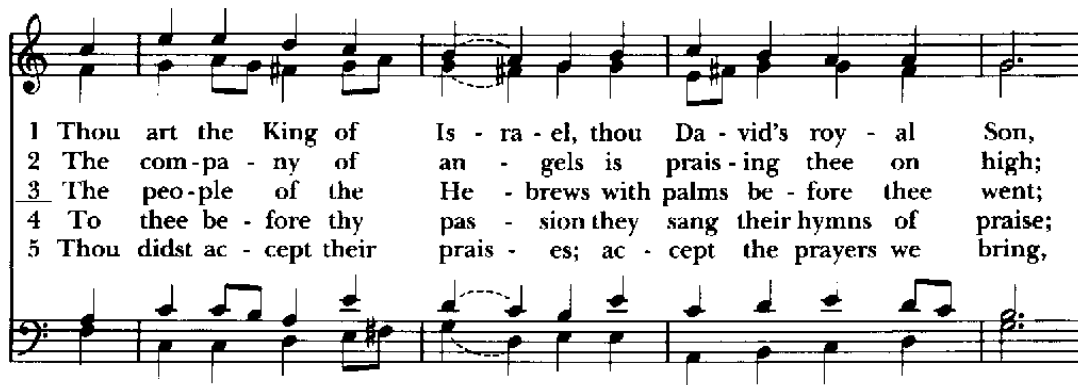
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

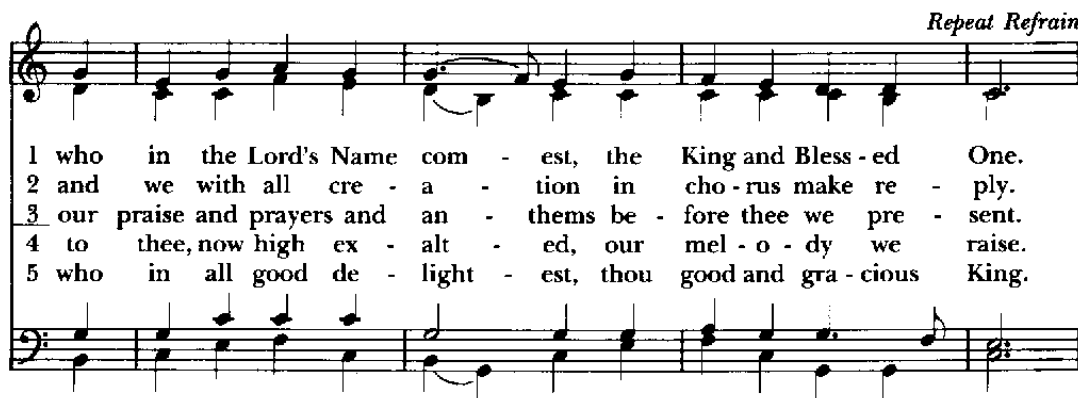


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Repeat Refrain*



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 4 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

*The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.*

Words: Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), alt.;

harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

76. 76. D

# At the Name of Jesus

*The Hymnal 1982, #435*



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,  
2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name  
3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,  
4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,  
\*5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due  
\*6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;  
2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,  
3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,  
4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ted breath;  
5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;  
6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord  
2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,  
3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;  
4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,  
5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;  
6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.  
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;  
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.  
4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.  
5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.  
6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

# Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended

The Hymnal 1982, #158

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

1 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
2 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
3 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
4 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
5 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy pi - ty

1 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
2 I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.  
3 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
4 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
5 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

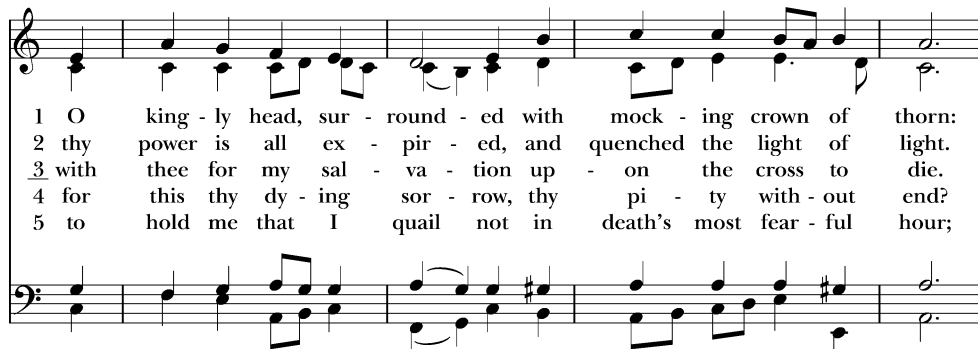
Words: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johann Crüger (1598-1662), alt.

# O sacred head, sore wounded

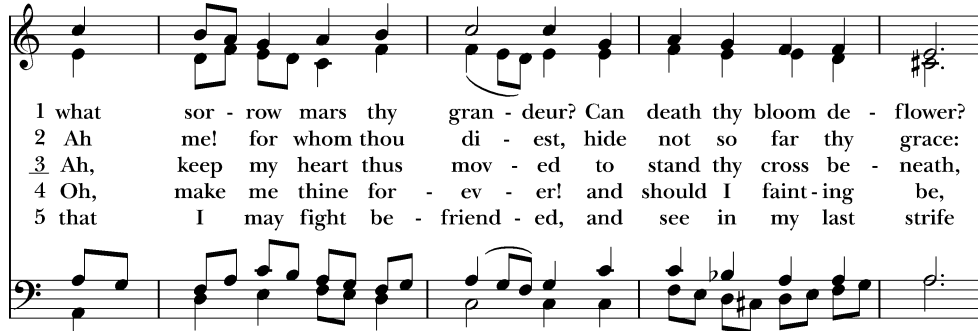
The Hymnal 1982, #168



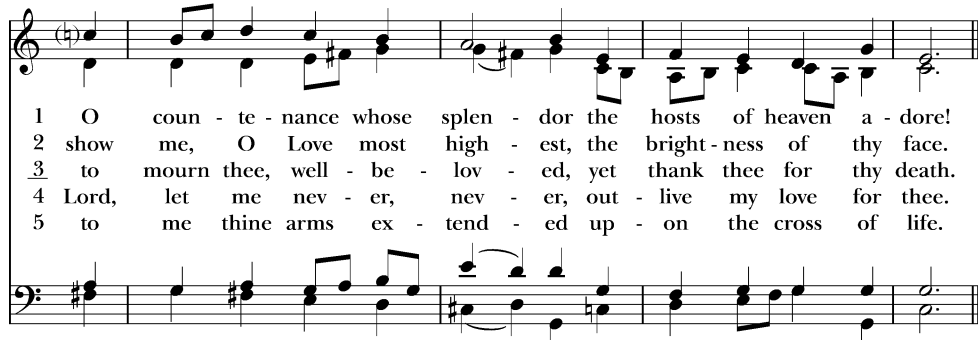
1 O sa - cred head, sore wound - ed, de - filed and put to scorn;  
 2 Thy beau - ty, long - de - sir - ed, hath va - nished from our sight;  
 3 In thy most bit - ter pas - sion my heart to share doth cry,  
 \*4 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 \*5 My days are few, O fail not, with thine im - mor - tal power,



1 O king - ly head, sur - round - ed with mock - ing crown of thorn:  
 2 thy power is all ex - pir - ed, and quenched the light of light.  
 3 with thee for my sal - va - tion up - on the cross to die.  
 4 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pi - ty with - out end?  
 5 to hold me that I quail not in death's most fear - ful hour;



1 what sor - row mars thy gran - deur? Can death thy bloom de - flower?  
 2 Ah me! for whom thou di - est, hide not so far thy grace:  
 3 Ah, keep my heart thus mov - ed to stand thy cross be - neath,  
 4 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er! and should I faint - ing be,  
 5 that I may fight be - friend - ed, and see in my last strife



1 O coun - te - nance whose splen - dor the hosts of heaven a - dore!  
 2 show me, O Love most high - est, the bright - ness of thy face.  
 3 to mourn thee, well - be - lov - ed, yet thank thee for thy death.  
 4 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er, out - live my love for thee.  
 5 to me thine arms ex - tend - ed up - on the cross of life.

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); sts. 1-3, 5, tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); st. 4, tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859), alt. Music: *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* [*Passion Chorale*], Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612); adapt. And harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

## The Passion According to Matthew

*The congregation remaining seated, the Passion Gospel is read in parts, led by a narrator who begins by saying: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.*

NARRATOR: One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

JUDAS: "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"

NARRATOR: They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

**CONGREGATION: "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"**

JESUS: "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

NARRATOR: So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

NARRATOR: And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

**CONGREGATION: "Surely not I, Lord?"**

JESUS: "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

JUDAS: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

JESUS: "You have said so."

NARRATOR: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

JESUS: "Take, eat; this is my body."

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

NARRATOR: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>[[SEP]]</sub>and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

NARRATOR: Peter said to him,

PETER: "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

JESUS: "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

PETER: "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

NARRATOR: And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

NARRATOR: He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and

agitated. Then he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

NARRATOR: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

NARRATOR: Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

NARRATOR: Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

JESUS: "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

NARRATOR: Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

NARRATOR: At once he came up to Jesus and said,

JUDAS: "Greetings, Rabbi!"

NARRATOR: and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Friend, do what you are here to do."

NARRATOR: Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

NARRATOR: At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled."

NARRATOR: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

**CONGREGATION: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in**

**three days."**

NARRATOR: The high priest stood up and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

HIGH PRIEST: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him,

JESUS: "You have said so. But I tell you,  
From now on you will see the Son of Man<sup>[SEP]</sup> seated at the right hand of Power<sup>[SEP]</sup> and coming on the clouds of heaven."

NARRATOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

CHIEF PRIESTS: "He deserves death."

NARRATOR: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

CHIEF PRIESTS: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

NARRATOR: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

SERVANT GIRL: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

NARRATOR: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

PETER: "I do not know what you are talking about."

NARRATOR: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

SERVANT GIRL: This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Again he denied it with an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man."

NARRATOR: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

**CONGREGATION: Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."**

NARRATOR: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know the man!"

NARRATOR: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

JESUS: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

NARRATOR: And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

**CONGREGATION: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."**

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

**CONGREGATION: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."**

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury

foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

JESUS: "You say so."

NARRATOR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

NARRATOR: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

**CONGREGATION: "Barabbas."**

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

**CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"**

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

**CONGREGATION: "Let him be crucified!"**

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

**CONGREGATION: "His blood be on us and on our children!"**

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

**CONGREGATION: "Hail, King of the Jews!"**

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*(At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.)*

NARRATOR: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

**CONGREGATION: "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."**

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

**CONGREGATION: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"**

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**CONGREGATION: "This man is calling for Elijah."**

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

**CONGREGATION: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."**

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

CENTURION: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

NARRATOR: Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was

also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

**CONGREGATION: "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."**

**PILATE:** "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

**NARRATOR:** So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.