

<b>G</b> ATHERING	
GATHERING	

WELCOME

#### **OPENING LITANY**

Congregation is invited to light their candle as a sign of God's presence with us as we begin worship.

In the shadow of our suffering, is the suffering of Jesus.

In the shadow of our weakness, is the vulnerability of Christ.

In the shadow of our pain, is the God who cried out.

We are never rejected. We are never left alone

GATHERING SONG – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



- sa cred head, now wound ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
- How pale thou art with an guish, with sore a buse and What lan-guage shall I bor row to thank thee, dear est and scorn;
- friend.
- Lord, be my con so la tion; shield me when I die; must



sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly now scorn - ful - ly crown; lan - guish, which once was how does thy face now bright as morn! with - out for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y end? pas - sion when my hour draws nigh. re - mind me of thy last





# GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, in this darkness of this day, we see the betrayal of friendship and its consequences, and we see how unreliable your followers proved to be in crisis. But even tonight, as we gather at the foot of your cross, we confess that just like your disciples, we, too, are guilty of betrayal. We, too, are guilty of denial. And we, too, are guilty of abandoning you. Forgive us, and remember us according to your steadfast love. Walk with us into the darkness of this night, that we may know your abiding presence even in the shadows. Step by step, reveal your love to us, bursting through the suffering, pain, and death of your Son, that we might come to experience your grace anew. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



READING: PSALM 22: 1-8, 14-19

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night, but find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried, and were saved;

in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

<sup>8</sup>"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver — let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

<sup>14</sup>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;
<sup>15</sup>my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
<sup>16</sup>For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;
<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
<sup>18</sup>they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

READING: MARK 15: 21-39

<sup>21</sup>So they compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

<sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

### REFLECTION

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Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, even at a distance, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven...

SENDING	
JLINDING	

#### DISMISSAL

As a symbolic reminder of Christ's death, the very light of the world dying on this night, you are invited to extinguish your candle before we close with our dismissal.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sin and brokenness,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, in every corner of darkness and suffering,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us your peace.

We adore you, Lord Jesus, and we bless you.

For by your holy cross, your love has redeemed the world.

All are invited to depart from this time of worship, knowing that our worship continues on Easter Sunday at 9am. You are welcome to remain connected through the postlude for a time of meditation.