

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANDOVER, MA**

Pr. Jeanette Leisk, Transition Pastor

*May each person feel **invited** to this community, **equipped** to use their gifts to the Glory of God, and **sent** to serve.*

**Good Friday
April 2, 2021**



All congregational responses are in **bold** text.
Hymns are printed at the back of the bulletin.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness”) was the name given to the medieval predawn morning prayer celebrated by monks during the last three days in Holy Week. In the monastic practice, it was a service of prayers and readings from scripture. As the light began to dawn, the candles used for reading were gradually extinguished, so that at the end of the service, the rising sun provided the necessary light for reading and singing.

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days on Easter morning.

GATHERING

All gather in silence. We will mute everyone a few minutes before the service begins.

BIDDING PRAYERS read by Louise Kress

Tonight we pray for God's holy church in every land. Lord, your power is beyond our imagination, and yet you sent your Son to us as a humble carpenter, riding into Jerusalem on a colt. By your Holy Spirit guide your church to gather together throughout the world, to share the good news of your grace in Jesus Christ with all people, and to serve our neighbors with kindness and humility. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for all the servants of your church, for our bishops and pastor, for those who have gathered to worship tonight and those who could not be with us. Lord, your Holy Spirit guides our steps each day, help each of us to do your work in the church and in the world as you have called us to, with generosity and an open hearts, and keep us in health and safety. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for all those who are preparing for baptism. Lord, you bless your church each day with your wisdom and grace. Give all those who are taking their first steps into faith, insight into your understanding and compassion. As they receive their new life in Christ, give them community and communion within the church, and bless them with a thriving and healthy community for support. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for all of our siblings in Jesus Christ, whatever we share in common, whatever our differences. Lord, it is in your name that we have our unity, it is in our baptism into Jesus Christ that we are truly one. Unite us again into one fellowship and grant us your favor as we work together to share your good news with the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of Almighty God. Lord, your promises are eternal and the strength of your covenants cannot be doubted. Your promises, to Abraham and Moses, to Sarah and Esther, remain in place, and you have chosen the Jewish people as your own. Grant them your strength and protect them from every harm. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. Lord, around the world your name is said in many languages, many who believe in you call you by another name. Bring an end to hatred between religions, and give us the grace and courage to be faithful witnesses of your love for all people in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for those who do not believe in God. Lord, you created us in an act of love, and you sent your Son to us as one of us to show that love. Let all people around the world see your love in the daily words and actions of Christians, that they may come to know you and love you as we do. Help us to carry your light within us and to share that light with all we meet, so that the whole world may proclaim you as the true God of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for all of God's wondrous creation. Lord, you have created everything we know, from the stars above us to the dirt beneath us, from gigantic galaxies to the tiniest atoms, from the dinosaurs of the past to the children who have yet to be born. You care for all that you have created, help us to care for it as you do and bring everything you've made to fulfill its purpose. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for all who serve in public office, whether they are appointed by officials or elected by the people. Lord, you are the source of all of our knowledge and compassion. Your voice speaks on behalf of the weak and the downtrodden, those whose voices and needs are ignored. Give your wisdom to all those with the power to use it, so that all people may live in a world of justice and peace, and share in your creation with generosity and compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Tonight we pray for those who are in any kind of need. Lord, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly imprisoned or oppressed, and deliver your world from dishonesty, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, and help them in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ALL: Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

GOSPEL John 18:1--19:42

NARRATOR: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the gospel of John....

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

JESUS: "Whom are you looking for?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

PRIESTS AND POLICE: "Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Jesus replied,

JESUS: "I am he."

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

JESUS: "Whom are you looking for?"

NARRATOR: And they said,

PRIESTS AND POLICE: "Jesus of Nazareth."

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

Pause as candle is extinguished.

NARRATOR: Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

JESUS: "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

NARRATOR: So the soldiers, their officer, and the temple police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter,

WOMAN: "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?"

NARRATOR: He said,

PETER: "I am not."

NARRATOR: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

JESUS: "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jewish people come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."

NARRATOR: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

POLICE: "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

NARRATOR: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him,

POLICE: "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?"

NARRATOR: He denied it and said,

PETER: "I am not."

NARRATOR: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

SLAVE: "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"

NARRATOR: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Pause as candle is extinguished

SONG "Above All" [Rock of Ages]

NARRATOR: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

PILATE: "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

NARRATOR: They answered,

PRIESTS AND POLICE: "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

NARRATOR: The Jewish authorities replied,

PRIESTS AND POLICE: "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

NARRATOR: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

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

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

NARRATOR: Pilate replied,

PILATE: "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

NARRATOR: Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "So you are a king?"

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

NARRATOR: Pilate asked him,

PILATE: "What is truth?"

NARRATOR: After he had said this, he went out to the crowd again 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?"

NARRATOR: They shouted in reply,

ALL (CROWD): "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

NARRATOR: Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Pause as candle is extinguished

NARRATOR: 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,

SOLDIERS: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

NARRATOR: 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."

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

PILATE: "Here is the man!"

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

ALL (CROWD): "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

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

NARRATOR: The crowd answered him,

ALL (CROWD): "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

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

PILATE: "Where are you from?"

NARRATOR: But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

PILATE: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"

NARRATOR: Jesus answered him,

JESUS: "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

NARRATOR: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the crowd cried out,

ALL (CROWD): "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

NARRATOR: 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 crowd,

PILATE: "Here is your King!"

NARRATOR: They cried out,

ALL (CROWD): "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"

NARRATOR: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Shall I crucify your King?"

NARRATOR: The chief priests answered,

PRIESTS: "We have no king but the emperor."

NARRATOR: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Pause as candle is extinguished.

HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus, ELW 349

NARRATOR: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Judeans read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the temple said to Pilate,

PRIESTS: "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

NARRATOR: Pilate answered,

PILATE: "What I have written I have written."

NARRATOR: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another,

SOLDIERS: "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,

JESUS: "Woman, here is your son."

NARRATOR: Then he said to the disciple,

JESUS: "Here is your mother."

NARRATOR: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),

JESUS: "I am thirsty."

NARRATOR: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

JESUS: "It is finished."

NARRATOR: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pause as candle is extinguished.

NARRATOR: Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jewish authorities did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the temple authorities, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Pause as candle is extinguished.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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 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,

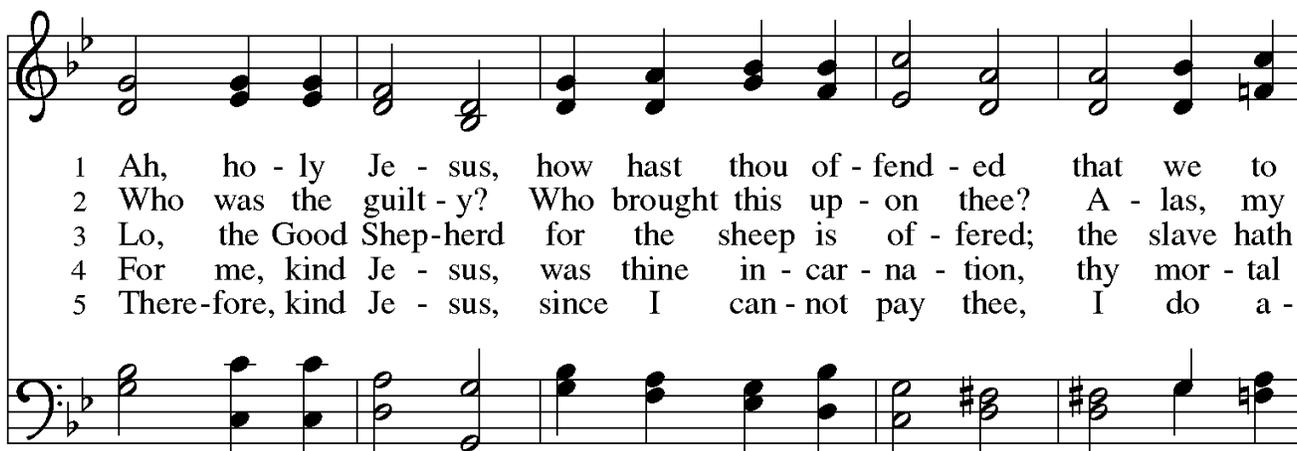
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

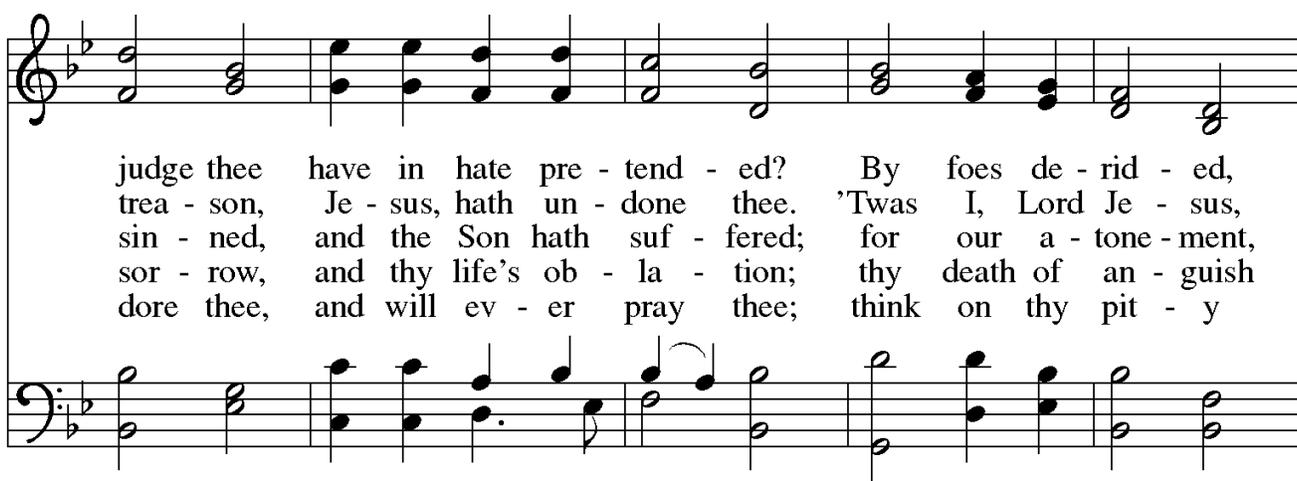
HYMN Were You There? ELW 353

During the song the Christ Candle is carried out and the worship space is left in darkness. After the hymn, it is carried back in and the congregation may remain online as long as they wish for personal time of reflection before leaving worship in silence.

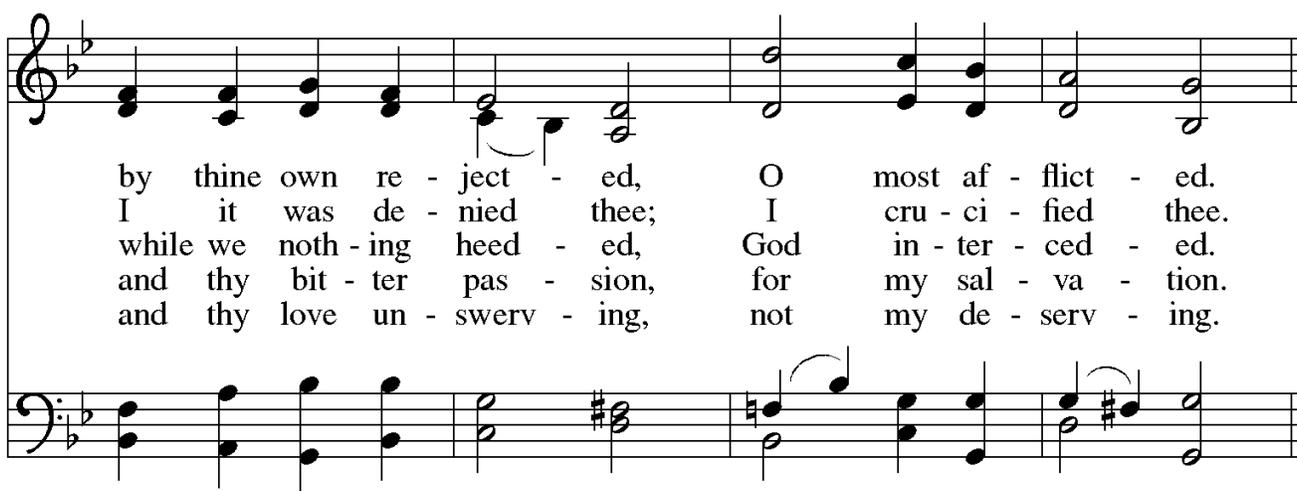
Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we 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 thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



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



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

Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks go to those who read the Passion this evening:

Narrator - Mary Johnson

Jesus - David Kettner

Priest and Police - Craig & Sharon Saline

Woman - Caroline Kettner

Peter - Doug Johnson

Slave - William Wood

Pilate - Dave Kress

Crowd - Congregation

Soldiers - Bill Neuman

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<https://thegloriousliberty.blogspot.com/2019/05/good-friday-bidding-prayers-adapted.html>

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