Good Friday

April 3, 2026 at 7 o'clock in the evening

St Peter's Church in Essex Fells
A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK
271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021
973.226.6500 • stpetersef.org

Welcome to St. Peter's Church

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We are a church rooted in Christian tradition, and open to new ideas, committed to service in community and world as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. The work of worship is shared by all, and we invite you to participate in the spoken and sung responses and hymns as you are able. Help us to make this a place where God's grace is freely shared by everyone.

All are welcome to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device.

Good Friday

Good Friday is the middle of the Triduum, the three-days' space starting on Maundy Thursday and ending at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The name "Good" refers to the old understanding of the word as "pious" or "holy." Today is also known as "Holy Friday" or "Great Friday." The Eucharist is not celebrated on this day.

The Solemn Collects are based on an ancient form of intercession used since the third century. The initial invitation begins with a paraphrase of John 3:16-18. It is said that this series of collects forms a comprehensive summary of the whole prayer of the Church for the fulfillment of Christ's redemptive work.

Today's Offering will be given to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries in this region through the Good Friday Offering. Through the work of the Episcopal dioceses in the Middle East, Christians maintain a peacemaking and stabilizing presence in the region, serving their neighbors regardless of faith background.

The Vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Jim Irwin and Barbara Gargiulo, *Wardens;*
Christine Albano, Erika Grothues, Sarah Latson, Karen Mosher, *Vestry Members*

The Staff of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Nathaniel K.M. Darville, *Rector (darville@stpetersef.org)*
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Cover: 'Were you there?' from the Allan Rohan Crite Collection, Washington National Cathedral

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Good Friday Liturgy

Please stand as the ministers enter. All then kneel for silent prayer, after which the Presider stands and says

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*

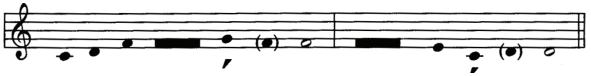
Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah. See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so he shall startle many nations; 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22 *Deus, Deus meus* *Tone II*



Cantor My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *

ALL and are so far from my cry
and from the words of / my ***dis***tress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not ***an***swer; *
by night as well, but I / find ***no*** rest.

3 Yet you are the ***Ho***ly One, *
enthroned upon the praises / of ***Is***rael.

4 Our forefathers put their ***trust*** in you; *
they trusted, and you / de***li***vered them.

5 They cried out to you and were de***li***vered; *
they trusted in you and were / not ***put*** to shame.

6 But as for me, I am a worm and no ***man***, *
scorned by all and despised / by ***the*** people.

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 de***li***ver him; *
let him rescue him, if he / de***lights*** in him."

9 Yet you are he who took me out of the ***womb***, *
and kept me safe upon / my ***mo***ther's breast.

10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was ***born***; *
you were my God when I was still in / my ***mo***ther's womb.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is ***near***, *
and there / is ***none*** to help.

Second Lesson *Hebrews 10:15-25*

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. [And 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *John Stainer*
1840-1901

God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in him should not perish
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
But that the world through him might be saved.
—John 3:16, 17

Gospel Lesson *John 18:1—19:42*

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. Please remain seated until indicated. You are invited to participate by joining in the parts marked ***Crowd.***

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he 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?"

Evangelist They answered,

Crowd **"Jesus of Nazareth."**

Evangelist Jesus replied,

Jesus "I am he."

Evangelist 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?"

Evangelist And they said,

Crowd **"Jesus of Nazareth."**

Evangelist Jesus answered,

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

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

Evangelist So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish 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?"

Evangelist He said,

Peter "I am not."

Evangelist 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 Jews 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."

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

Policeman "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Evangelist Jesus answered,

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

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

Crowd **"You are not also one of his disciples, are you?"**

Evangelist He denied it and said,

Peter "I am not."

Evangelist 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?"

Evangelist Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. 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?"

Evangelist They answered,

Crowd **"If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."**

Evangelist Pilate said to them,

Pilate "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

Evangelist The Jews replied,

Crowd **"We are not permitted to put anyone to death."**

Evangelist (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?"

Evangelist Jesus answered,

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

Evangelist 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?"

Evangelist 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 Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Evangelist Pilate asked him,

Pilate "So you are a king?"

Evangelist 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."

Evangelist Pilate asked him,

Pilate "What is truth?"

Evangelist After he had said this, he went out to the Jews 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?"

Evangelist They shouted in reply,

Crowd **"Not this man, but Barabbas!"**

Evangelist Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,

Crowd **"Hail, King of the Jews!"**

Evangelist ... and striking him on the face.

Evangelist 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."

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

Pilate "Here is the man!"

Evangelist When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

Crowd **"Crucify him! Crucify him!"**

Evangelist Pilate said to them,

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

Evangelist The Jews answered him,

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

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

Pilate "Where are you from?"

Evangelist 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?"

Evangelist 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."

Evangelist From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

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."**

Evangelist When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews,

Pilate "Here is your King!"

Evangelist They cried out,

Crowd **"Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"**

Evangelist Pilate asked them,

Pilate "Shall I crucify your King?"

Evangelist The chief priests answered,

Crowd **"We have no king but the emperor."**

Evangelist Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. 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.

Please stand

Evangelist 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 Jews 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 Jews said to Pilate,

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

Evangelist Pilate answered,

Pilate "What I have written I have written."

Evangelist 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,

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

Evangelist 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."

Evangelist Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus "Here is your mother."

Evangelist 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."

Evangelist 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."

Evangelist Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews 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.

Evangelist 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 Jews, 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.

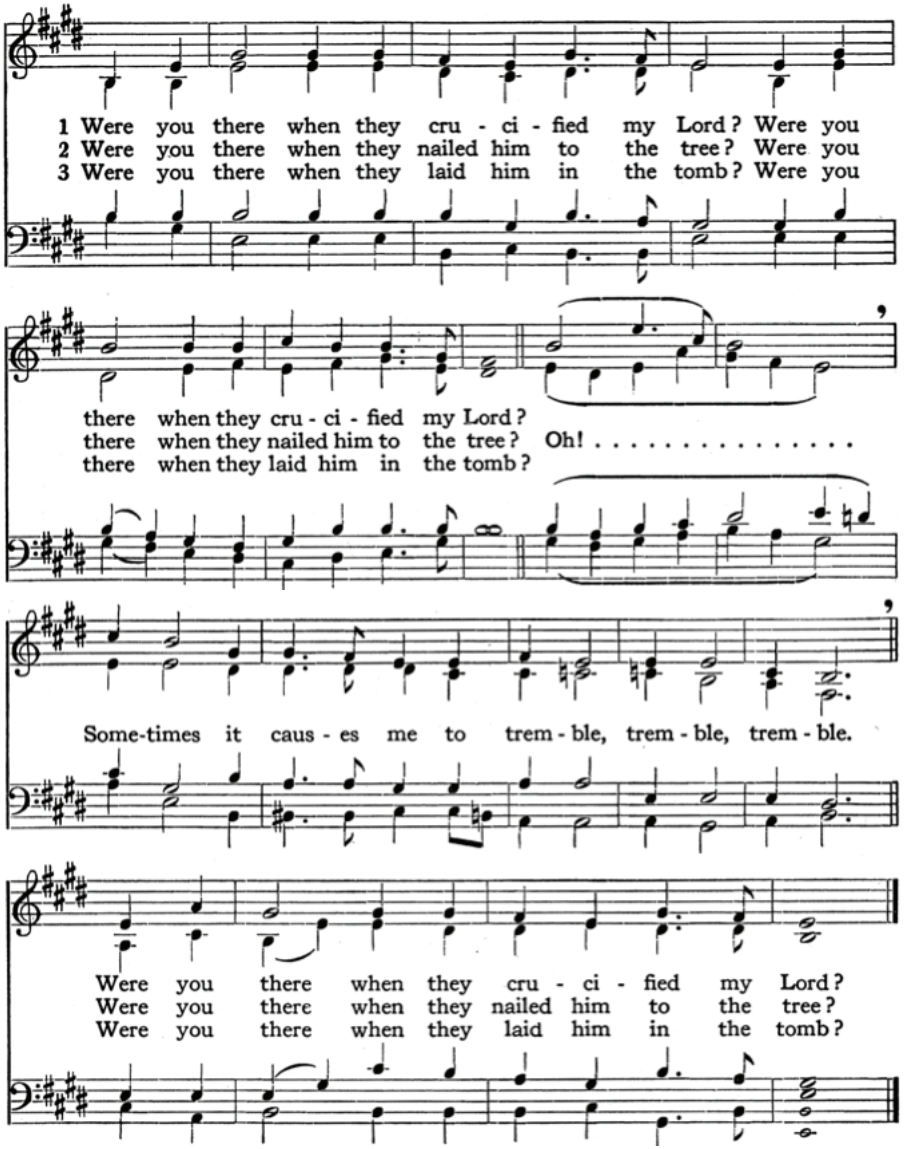
Sermon

Please stand and sing

Hymn

WERE YOU THERE

African-American Spiritual, arr. Winfred Douglas



The Solemn Collects

Deacon 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.

Deacon 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 Carlye, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese; For all Christians in this community; 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.**

Deacon Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them; For 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 tranquillity your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Deacon 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 crippled; 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 your 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.**

Deacon 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.**

Deacon 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 tranquillity 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.**

A wooden cross is now brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.

ANTHEM — *SENZENI NA*
Xhosa struggle song

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying Crimson, like a Robe,
Spreads o'er his Body on the Tree;
Then I am dead to all the Globe,
And all the Globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.
—Isaac Watts, 1707

HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Please kneel

ALL **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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.

People **Amen.**

Presider Let us pray.

ALL **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as 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, the power, and the glory,
for and for ever. Amen.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Recipient **Amen.**

Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Recipient **Amen.**

After Communion

Please stand

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.**

Please leave quietly after the ministers depart the Nave