

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

DENTON, TEXAS

April 18, 2025

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Prelude

SILENCE AND PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP Lisa Patterson

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light.

OPENING PRAYER

*Hymn 222 Rejected and Despised CARDINAL

THE SOLEMN INTERCESSION

Bidding prayer for the whole family of God and the afflictions of the world is said.

God sent Jesus 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 eternal life.

We pray for the church of Christ throughout the world: for its unity in witness and service, for all church leaders and members and the people whom they serve, for all people of this presbytery and this denomination, and for our brothers and sisters in all God's churches, that God will confirm the church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Eternal God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified.

Receive our prayers for all members of your holy church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them: for Donald Trump, the President of the United States, and the Congress and Supreme Court, and for the members and representatives of the United Nations.

May all these leaders, with God's help, seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

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.

May your justice and peace increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind: for the hungry and homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, and all who suffer persecution, doubt, and despair, for the sorrowful and bereaved, and for prisoners and captives and those in mortal danger.

We pray for soldiers engaged in combat and for the suffering of innocent civilians, that God will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of God's love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. In their afflictions, show them your mercy.

Give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all who have not received the gospel of Christ: for all who have not heard the words of salvation, for all who have lost their faith, and for all whose sin has made them indifferent to Christ.

We pray for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed, for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ, and persecutors of his disciples, for all 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

Merciful God, creator of the peoples of the earth, 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.

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that with all who have departed this life 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.

Eternal God of unchanging power and light, look with mercy on your whole church. Bring to completion your saving work, so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection by him through whom all things were made.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn 215 (VS. 1)

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

Richard B. Culp

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna; I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Hymn 218 Ah Holy Jesus Herzliebster jesu

THE ORDER OF TENEBRAE

Luke 22: 1-6 Melanie Lewis

Special music: They Crucified My Lord

Luke 22: 47-53 John Noah

Special music: They Crucified My Lord

Luke 22: 54-62 Leslie Culp

Special music: They Crucified My Lord

Luke 23: 1-12 Darhyl Ramsey

Special music: They Crucified My Lord

Luke 23: 13-25 Jocelyn Widmer

Congregation sings: Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Luke 23: 26-31 Drew Schnurr

Congregation sings: Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Luke 23: 32-38 Karen Dower

Congregation sings: Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Luke 23: 39-45 Charlie Guerrero

Anthem Depth of Mercy arr. David Rasbach

Chancel Choir with Daeun Kim, Piano, and String Quartet

Luke 23: 46

DISMISSAL AND SILENT MEDITATION

You are invited to continue in silent reflection. In-person worshippers are invited to leave in silence.



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Christ,

and

by

Since apostolic times (see Acts 8:26–39), Christians have seen parallels between the Fourth Servant Song (Isaiah 52:13–53:12) and Christ's Passion. This reflection on that passage reminds us how the suffering Christ continues to be present in the victimized people of our own day.

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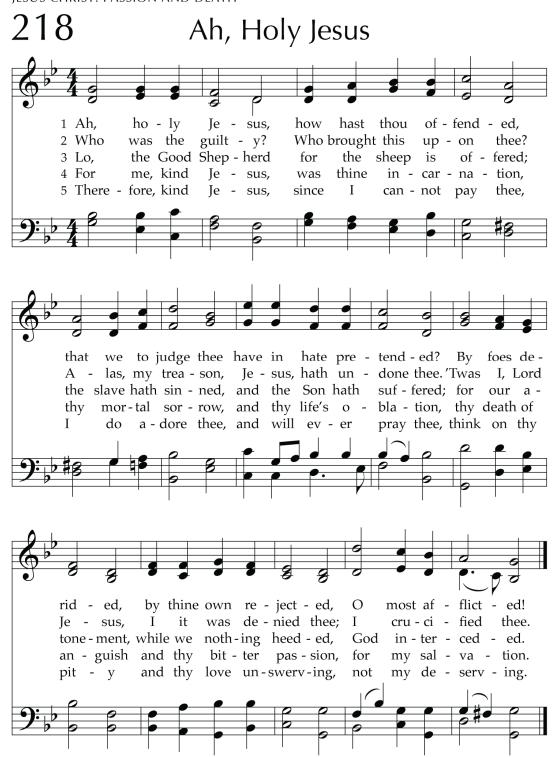
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What Wondrous Love Is This 215



With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."



This beautiful English paraphrase of a German meditation on Christ's Passion bears testimony to the unobtrusive poetic skill and musical sensitivity of a future Poet Laureate of England. The associated chorale is no less carefully crafted and rewards singing in parts.



Opt. 6 Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Scripture Lessons Luke 22:1—23:46

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ² The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus^[a] to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴ he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵ They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Judas Betrays Jesus

⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Peter Denies Jesus

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" ⁵⁹ Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

Jesus before Pilate and Herod

23 Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." ³Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." ⁵But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Jesus Sentenced to Death

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of

any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" ¹⁹ (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²² A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]]^[f] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^[g] of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, ^[h] "This is the King of the Jews."

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The Death of Jesus

⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴

Holy Week and Easter

Great Vigil of Easter Saturday, April 19

5:00pm, Front Lawn

(in the case of inclement weather, we will meet in Fellowship Hall)

Easter Sunday
April 20

8:30am and 10:50am Worship Services Potluck Breakfast at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Received

By the Numbers: As of 3/31/25

Income (pledges + other income)\$269,296Expenses\$242,562Difference\$26,734

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St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing situations such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Please contact Richard Culp or Lisa Patterson to connect with Stephen Ministry.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

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Kirsten Trachsel, Director of Children's and Handbell Choirs
J. Christine Le, Director of Music
Daeun Kim, Organist



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).