



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church *Lake Jackson, Texas*

Our Vision

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we experience the love of Jesus Christ
and share it with others.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH FOOT-WASHING

Maundy Thursday
April 2nd, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Welcome to St. Timothy's on this holy evening. We invite you to join in with us as we pray, sing and worship God together. For ease of use, this bulletin contains the congregation's portions of the liturgy and service music. If you wish to use the Book of Common Prayer [BCP] and the Bible, please refer to page numbers in brackets. Music not printed here may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982 or in the red Celebrate! Songbook, located in the pew rack.

As a time of recommitting to Jesus, our rector will reaffirm her vows during this service as is the custom in the Diocese of Texas. If you are unfamiliar with the customs of the Episcopal Church, simply relax and let the congregation carry you.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements *(sit)*

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Hymn 439

Opening Acclamation

[BCP 355]

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy God *Trisagion (S100) (all sing)*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

[BCP 274]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The People sit for the Lessons.

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

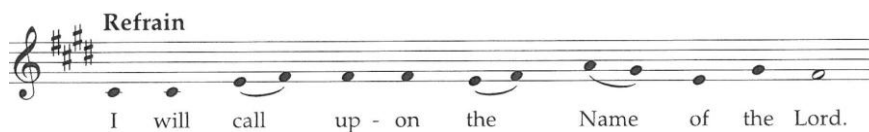
This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 116:1, 10-17 (*sung by the cantor*)



1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

Refrain

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Refrain

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

Refrain

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Refrain

The Epistle: I Corinthians 11:23-26

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*all sing*) (*vs. 1-4*) *Now, My Tongue, The Mystery Telling* **Hymn 329**

The Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel passage is read.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily (*sit*)

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Geisler, Jr. - M.Div, D.Min.

The Foot-Washing

Celebrant Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service, and he commanded them to follow his example by washing one another’s feet. Therefore you are invited to share in the royal priesthood of Christ by coming forward, that following the example of our Master, and remembering the new commandment that he gave this night, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

During the foot washing, the choir sings the following anthem.

- **Wash Me Thoroughly** (*sung by the choir*)

arr. Barnard

- **Hymn 602** (*all sing*)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Once all who desire it have received the foot-washing, the vessels are set aside and the service continues with the prayers.

The Prayers of the People *(stand)*

Intercessor Let us pray, in the joy of the Lord's sacrament and in the sorrow of his Passion. Inspire the Church with the presence of Jesus Christ, here with us as he was with his disciples on the eve of his Passion.

People **Draw us closer to you and to one another in the celebration of holy communion.**

Intercessor Recalling your great acts of mercy, we pray for the world, for freedom from the slavery of injustice and oppression, and all that holds people back from fullness of life. As you gave to your disciples a new commandment of love, give the spirit of love to all among whom we live.

People **Let the healing power of our communion spread beyond these walls, to make many whole.**

Intercessor Have mercy on those who have not learned to love.

People **Grant that those who feel themselves to be without value may be confident of their worth shown in Christ's saving death.**

Intercessor We pray for those who in this world followed Christ and died in the assurance of his love.

People **May the grace of his communion fortify us until we rest with them.**

Intercessor As we come to the Table of the Lord, may these our prayers be united with the great Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Silence

We pray for the special needs, concerns, and thanksgivings of this congregation.
(Intercessor waits a minute or two so people can add prayers aloud or silently.)

Silence

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.

We pray for those to be baptized, Sadie Mills.

Concluding Prayer

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has committed to your holy Church the care and nurture of your children; enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, we may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

[BCP 360]

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

Those who are able are invited to kneel. Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

The Peace (*stand*)

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus (S130) (all sing)

Setting by Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People 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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

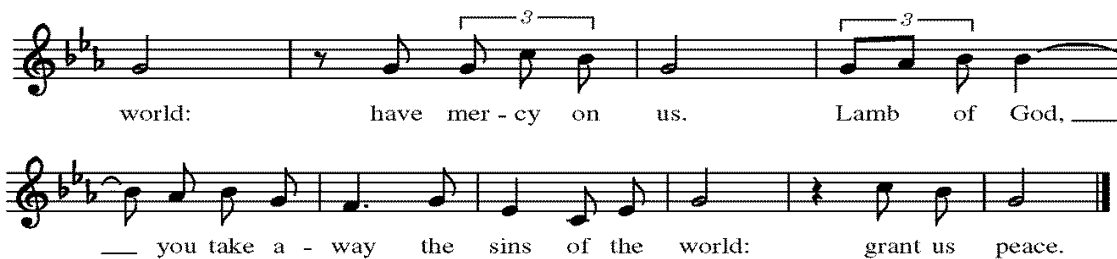
Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem (S374) (all sing)

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Fraction Anthem (S374). The music is in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a -" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody and bass line, with lyrics "way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us." The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the". The notation includes various note values, rests, and triplet markings.

Sva bassa ———— 3 ———— 3 ———— 3 ————
Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the



Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to come to the Lord's Table and receive the bread and wine of communion. Others are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing their arms over their chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the Celebrant just before you receive communion.

At Communion:

Hymn 158 *(all sing)*

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

Altar of Repose: Any consecrated communion left over will be taken by the Altar party to the Garden of Gethsemane (chapel) for members to come and pray for a time of prayer and devotion.

Hymn 341 *(all sing)*

For The Bread Which You Have Broken

The Prayer Vigil will begin after this service until Friday morning at 10:00 a.m., "Jesus invites us to stay and pray with him at the Garden". You may sign up for an hour in the hallway to pray at the Church or you may pray at home. The door of the Narthex will be unlocked from Thursday 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friday. At 10:00 a.m. we will consume the reserved sacrament.

Post Communion Prayer *(stand or kneel)*

[BCP 365]

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.”

We invite you to stay and watch and wait during the stripping of the altar. You may sing or be silent.

Stripping of the Altar

Stay With Me (*sing 3 times*)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and". The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and a common time signature. The second system begins with a measure rest for the vocal line, indicated by a '4' above the staff. The lyrics continue: "pray, watch and pray". The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass clef and common time signature. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte).

The Congregation departs in silence without a dismissal, for our Triduum (“three-day”) worship continues tomorrow at noon with the Liturgy for Good Friday.



The Church will stay open overnight for anyone who wishes to stay and watch and pray, either in the chapel or the sanctuary. Appropriate prayers and supplication will be there for your use. This is one way to respond to Jesus' question to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not watch one hour?" (Mark 14:37)

Additionally, you may wish to meditate upon the following readings and hymns during your watch this evening, whether in the church or at home.

I. GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Luke 22:39-62

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

While 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; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him. Then 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? When 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!'

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on

seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. 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.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

A Prayer

Jesus, we would enter Gethsemane with you
on behalf of all who are frightened and anxious,
all who are prone to panic, those wounded and hurt in life,
all who suffer loneliness, all little children afraid of the dark,
all elderly people who are prey to irrational fears and fantasies.
Jesus, by your presence in Gethsemane
and by your presence in that other garden of resurrection,
we thank you that you remain alive and present to us
in the midst of all our fears and anxieties.

~ John Carden

II. THE FOOT WASHING

John 13:1-5, 12-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

...

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me

Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

A Prayer

Jesus, servant, at supper with your disciples, you put a towel around your waist. Like Peter, we protest and distort your simple parable of love. Wash us, Lord, that we may be ready to wash each other's feet and to serve one another for your sake.

Jesus, servant, unless your Spirit lives in us, we will lord it over the people and institutions in our care. Come, dwell within us and within our churches, that we may learn how to follow you who came not to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many.

~ from

Korea

A Poem: The Foot-Washing

"I wouldn't take the bread and wine if I didn't wash feet."

~ Old Regular Baptist

They kneel on the slanting floor
before feet white as roots
humble as tree stumps.
Men before men
women before women
to soothe the sourness
bound in each other's journeys.
Corns, calluses, bone knobs
all received and rinsed
given back clean
to Sunday shoes and hightops.

This is how they prepare
for the Lord's Supper,
singing and carrying a towel

and a basin of water,
praying while kids put soot
in their socks—almost as good
as nailing someone in the outhouse.

Jesus started it: He washed feet
after Magdalen dried His ankles
with her hair. “If I wash thee not,
thou hast no part with me.”

All servants, they bathe
flesh warped to its balance.

God of the rootwad,
Lord of the bucket in the well.

(1949-)

~ *George Ella Lyon*

III. THE LAST SUPPER

Mark 14.12-25

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” ¹⁶ So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹ They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” ²⁰ He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ For 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.”

²² While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.²⁵ Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Prayers

As this bread is broken and this wine poured out, O Seeker and Saviour of the lost, we remember again the poor and oppressed of the earth. We recall that your body was broken that the hungry might be nourished, the oppressed set free and all replenished with the bread of new hope and new life.

~ from South India

Thank you, Lord, for the bread that makes us the same as you, and the same as others.

~ USA: prayer of a 7-year old child

A Poem: The Last Supper

I
Apostles of the hidden sun
Are come unto the room of breath
Hung with the banging blinds of death,
The body twelve, the spirit one,
Far as the eye, in earth arrayed,
The night shining, the supper laid.

II
The wine shone on the table
that evening of history
like an enormous ruby in the
bauble and mystery.

In the glowing walls of the
flickering decanter

there moved His face as at
the world's center.

The hands of Judas showed
up red and hurried
and the light hit them so,
like a cross carried
The faces of the others
were there and moving
in the crystal of the dome,
swiftly hovering.

The saints, under a lens,
shrunk to pigmies,
gesticulated in birds or
in colored enigmas.
Outside there was a storm,
the sound of temblors,
the blood bubbled and sprang
into the tumblers.

When the morning came like
a white wall of stone,
the day lay in the glass
and the blood was gone.

*~ Oscar Williams
(1899-1964)*

A Poem: A Ballad of Trees and the Master

Into the woods my Master went,
Clean forspent, forspent.
Into the woods my Master came,
Forspent with love and shame.
But the olives they were not blind to Him,
The little gray leaves were kind to Him:

The thorn-tree had a mind to Him
When into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master went,
And He was well content.
Out of the woods my Master came,
Content with death and shame.
When Death and Shame would woo Him last,
From under the trees they drew Him last:
'Twas on a tree they slew Him - last
When out of the woods He came.

~ *Sidney Lanier*
(1842-1881)

The betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter may be read in Mark 14.43-72.
Holy Week Prayer Vigil

Hymns

The poetry of our hymns is a beautiful expression of our faith. You can read them as you would a poem, or sing them in your heart or aloud. These are some suggestions, but any music that speaks to your heart is appropriate.

Now let us all with one accord	147
Creator of the earth and skies	148
Ah, holy Jesus	158
At the cross her vigil keeping	159
Alone thou goest forth, O Lord	164
O sacred head, sore wounded	168
To mock your reign, O dearest Lord	170
Go to dark Gethsemane	171
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?	172
Where charity and love prevail	581
Take up your cross, the Savior said	675