



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**March 16, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The tears which wet [Jesus’] cheeks, when looking upon the uncontrolled grief of Mary and her companions, he advanced, with heart swelling with indignation at the outrage of death, to the conquest of the destroyer, were distinctly tears of sympathy.”

—B. B. WARFIELD

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we confess that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

PSALM: Psalm 27

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### Instrumental Prelude

*Doori Na*

### Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Isaac Watts · Traditional Irish Tune

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory  
What bliss 'til now was Thine  
Yet though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered,  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
Vouchsafe me to Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever,  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to Thee.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Isaiah 53

LEADER He was despised and rejected by men,

PEOPLE **A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;**

LEADER And as one from whom men hide their faces

PEOPLE **He was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

LEADER Surely he has borne our griefs

PEOPLE **And carried our sorrows;**

LEADER Yet we esteemed him stricken,

PEOPLE **Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

LEADER But he was pierced for our transgressions;

PEOPLE **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

LEADER Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

PEOPLE **And with his wounds we are healed.**

LEADER All we like sheep have gone astray

PEOPLE **We have turned—every one—to his own way;**

LEADER And the LORD has laid on him

PEOPLE **The iniquity of us all.**

# HYMN

## Hallelujah! What a Savior

Phillip P. Bliss · Arr: Ron McGee

”Man of sorrows!” What a name  
For the Son of God, Who came,  
Ruined sinners to reclaim.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned He stood;  
Sealed my pardon with His blood.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*  
*Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was He,  
Full atonement can it be?  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;  
“It is finished!” was His cry,  
Now in Heav’n exalted high.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! *Chorus*

When He comes, our glorious King,  
All His ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we’ll sing:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! *Chorus*

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, 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.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected injustice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## John 16:20, 22

You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy...I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

LEADER        Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:  
                    in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL             **Thanks be to God!**

# PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER        The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL             **And also with you.**



# HYMN

## O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile

Frederick Faber · Eric Ashley

O come and mourn with me awhile,  
O come ye to the Savior's side  
O come, together let us mourn,  
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

Seven times He spake seven words of love;  
And all three hours His silence cried  
For mercy on the souls of men;  
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

*O love of God! O sin of man!  
In this dread act Your strength is tried;  
And victory remains with love;  
Jesus our Lord is crucified!*

O break, O break, hard heart of mine!  
Thy weak self-love and guilty pride  
His Pilate and His Judas were:  
Jesus our Lord is crucified.

A broken heart, a fount of tears,  
Ask, and they will not be denied;  
A broken heart love's cradle is:  
Jesus our Lord is crucified.    *Chorus*

# PROFESSION OF FAITH

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

*All preschool and elementary age children are invited to the front of the church and will be dismissed to Children's Church with their teachers where they will read, sing, learn, and play in an environment suited to their language and style. Alternatively, children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary to worship alongside the adults for the duration of the service.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We regularly pray for needs in our congregation, our neighborhood and city, and the world. Please submit prayer requests to [centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest](http://centralchurchnyc.org/prayerrequest).*

## OFFERING

*If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give generously as you are able. We give because all we have has been graciously given to us by God. Our offerings express our joyful dependence upon God and our commitment to join God in his work of renewal. You can give online by texting **centralchurchnyc** to **833-737-6262** or visiting [centralchurchnyc.org/give](http://centralchurchnyc.org/give).*

# OFFERTORY

## Stand in Your Love

Josh Baldwin · Ethan Hulse · Rita Springer · Mark Harris

When darkness tries to roll over my bones,  
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own,  
When brokenness and pain is all I know,  
I won't be shaken, I won't be shaken.

*My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love.*

Shame no longer has a place to hide.  
I am not a captive to the lies.  
I'm not afraid to leave my past behind.  
I won't be shaken, I won't be shaken. *Chorus*

There's power that can break off every chain.  
There's power that can empty out a grave.  
There's resurrection power that can save.  
There's power in Your name,  
Power in Your name. *Chorus*

## THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth LM

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

# SCRIPTURE READING

## John 11:32-44

The passage can be found on page 898 of the pew Bible.

<sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

## SERMON

### *The Emotional Life of Jesus | Sorrow*

Rev. Jason Harris

# THE THANKSGIVING

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

LEADER It is indeed right, our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this, your Table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but solely in your great mercy. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table, but you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, that we who now receive these gifts of bread and wine, according to our Savior's Word, may share in the body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him forever and he in us. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

# CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

Lord Jesus Christ, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

## **Prayer of Belief**

Lord Jesus Christ, I acknowledge that you are so holy and I am so sinful that you had to die for me. Yet you are so merciful and I am so loved that you were willing to die for me. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer of Commitment**

Lord Jesus, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, I shall love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that by loving you first I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties and have you as my first love, my chief good, and my final joy. Amen.

*Communion is served with wine and gluten-free bread.  
Individually wrapped wafers and grape juice are available at  
each station.*

# COMMUNION HYMN

## Christ is Mine Forevermore

Jonny Robinson · Rich Thompson

Mine are days that God has numbered,  
I was made to walk with Him.  
Yet I look for worldly treasure,  
And forsake the King of kings.

But mine is hope in my Redeemer,  
Though I fall, his love is sure.  
For Christ has paid for every failing,  
I am his forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow,  
Darkness not yet understood.  
Through the valley I must travel,  
Where I see no earthly good.

But mine is peace that flows from heaven,  
And the strength in times of need.  
I know my pain will not be wasted,  
Christ completes his work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger,  
Pilgrim on a narrow way.  
One with Christ I will encounter,  
Harm and hatred for his name.

But mine is armour for this battle,  
Strong enough to last the war.  
And he has said he will deliver,  
Safely to the golden shore.



*And mine are keys to Zion city,  
Where beside the King I walk.  
For there my heart has found its treasure,  
Christ is mine forevermore.*

Come rejoice now, O my soul.  
For his love is my reward.  
Fear is gone and hope is sure,  
Christ is mine forevermore.    *Chorus*

## **THE 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 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.

# BENEDICTION

*We begin our worship with God’s gracious invitation, and we conclude with God’s blessing, his good Word. It is appropriate to look up and open our palms as we receive the Benediction to symbolize how Jesus Christ lifts our heads and to demonstrate our eagerness to receive God’s blessing.*

# DISMISSAL

**LEADER**            Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ALL**                **Thanks be to God!**

# POSTLUDE

*Members of our prayer team will be available immediately following the service at the front of the sanctuary to pray confidentially for you about any need or concern you might have. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity to receive prayer. ☺*