



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

# PREPARATION

**April 18, 2025**

**Holy Week · Good Friday**

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

“The personal message of Good Friday, expressed in so many hymns and prayers which draw on the tradition of the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) and its New Testament outworking, comes down to this: ‘See all your sins on Jesus laid’; ‘The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me’; or, in the words which Jesus spoke at the Supper but which God spoke on Good Friday itself: ‘This is my body, given for you.’ When we apply this as individuals to today’s and tomorrow’s sins, the result is not that we are given license to sin because it’s all been dealt with anyway but rather that we are summoned by the most powerful love in the world to live by the pattern of death and resurrection, repentance and forgiveness, in daily Christian living, in sure hope of eventual victory.”

—N. T. WRIGHT

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified: Receive our prayer which we offer before you for the many different members of your holy church; that every one of them in his vocation and ministry may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

PSALM: Psalm 22

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25

GOSPEL: John 18:1-19:42

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts

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 to 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?

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.

# WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

## Hebrews 4:14-16

LEADER Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,

PEOPLE **Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

LEADER For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses

PEOPLE **But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

LEADER Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

PEOPLE **That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

# HYMN

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Bernard of Clairvaux · Tr. Paul Gerhardt · Arr. J.S. Bach

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.

## **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**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SILENT CONFESSION**

# WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## 1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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

## The Power of the Cross

Keith Getty · Stuart Townend · Arr. Dan Galbraith

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed,  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *Chorus*

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,  
“Finished!” the vict'ry cry. *Chorus*

Oh, to see my name written in Your wounds,  
For through Your suffering, I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross.  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost,  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

# 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.

## OFFERING

*If you are our guest today, please feel no obligation to give. For members and regular attenders of Central, give as 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](https://centralchurchnyc.org/give)**.*

# OFFERTORY

## Were You There

African-American Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

# 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

### Mark 15:22-39

The passage can be found on pages 852-853 of the pew Bible.

<sup>22</sup>And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup>And it was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

<sup>33</sup>And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>35</sup>And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” <sup>36</sup>And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” <sup>37</sup>And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

## SERMON

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

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

## Divine Exchange

Brandon Collins · Charity Gayle · Jennie Riddle · Melanie Tierce

On the cross hung my pain  
And the guilt and the shame.  
Jesus bore my suffering  
To the grave to make me free.

Oh the blood that was shed,  
It now flows to cover sin.  
It washes clean and purifies  
In its healing crimson tide.

*Jesus, He took my place in divine exchange;  
Hallelujah! Grace is mine.  
Now I will live by faith for the One who saves.  
He gave all to give me life.*

His spirit is my present help;  
I'd be lost all by myself.  
He resurrects; He sanctifies.  
He takes His power and makes it mine.    *Chorus*

I lay down all lesser things for greater gain;  
He is alive inside of me.    *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

## 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. ∞*

## CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

*Please take a few minutes to fill out this year's congregational survey at [centralchurchnyc.org/survey](http://centralchurchnyc.org/survey).*