

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Organist & Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer

Good Friday + 2 April 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia*

You may also choose to light a candle, making sure it is safe.

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Hymn

O sacred head, now wounded

Latin attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux.

German Paul Gerhardt. English, James Alexander.

Hans Leo Hassler, Harmony, J.S. Bach

1. O sac - red Head, sore wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur -
2. What you, dear Sav - ior suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain; mine, mine was the trans -
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you, dear - est friend, for this your dy - ing

round - ed with thorns your on - ly crown; how pale you are with an - guish, with
gres - sion, but yours the dead - ly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior, for
sor - row, your pit - y with - out end? May I be yours for ev - er, and

sore a - buse and scorn; how does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn.
I de - serve your place; look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me your grace.
though my days be few, O Sav - ior, let me nev - er out - live my love to you.

A Reading of the Passion according to St. Mark

Mark 14:1—15:47

Read by Rev. Garland Pierce in a worship service on March 29, 2015

interrupted with reflections and prayers

Reading

Mark 14:1-9

“Anointing”: Meditation by Rebecca Daniel

Questions for Reflection

Looking out on the street through the window, let us reflect on:
What is essential?
What is wasteful?
What is of service to Jesus?
In what way might we anoint Jesus?

Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
help us to follow the example of this humble woman, Mary.
Guide us to understand nothing in life is more important than you.
We pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world,
that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy
among those to whom much has been given.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
the ability to work together,
and a willingness to share with others
our time, our energy, our skills and talents and our wealth.
We pray in your name. Amen.

Reading

Mark 14:10-42

“Letting Go”: Meditation by Gladys Yegon

Questions for Reflection

What am I struggling with, that I am willing to numb and not work through?
What do I need to let go of and what do I need to become open to as God’s will for my life?
In my community, who is going through a difficult season? How can I be present with them?

Prayer

Dear God,
we open our hearts to you,
we lay our burdens at your feet
and ask that whatever is pressing upon us finds its way forward within your will.
We pray that you may strengthen us to stay awake
to accompany others when they are thrown on the ground.
Tear the veil of weariness and apathy in our spirits,
renew us to be willing to love and serve you always. Amen.

Reading

Mark 14:43-72

“Betrayal”: Meditation by Nina Kiderlin

Questions for Reflection

In this past week, when have I denied Christ by my words or lack of words, my actions or inactions?
When have I allowed the Spirit to prompt me and to respond with courage?

Prayer

God, we live in a world where, on the global stage and in our own lives, betrayals happen every day. We pray that we make a more conscious effort to see these betrayals, to name them, and make a contribution towards rectifying them. We pray specifically for the people of Myanmar who are being betrayed by their military and the international community which has for now chosen to stand back and watch. Help alleviate their suffering. Amen.

Reading

Mark 15:1-20

“Abuse of power”: Meditation by Laurel Borisenko

Questions for Reflection

Where am I in this story, and where am I today, in the face of abuse of power?
Do I recognize my own power, my own privilege, and how do I use this power?
How am I called to “speak truth to power”?

Prayer

Pray for individuals and groups who are the victims of abuse of power and for survivors of torture.
Pray that God shows you what role you uniquely have to contribute to challenging abuse of power and working toward a more just world.

Reading

Mark 15:21-37

“Crucifixion”: Meditation by Ralston Deffenbaugh

Prayer

When the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was in a Nazi prison awaiting his execution, he wrote this prayer:

*Lord Jesus Christ! You were miserable and suffering, imprisoned and abandoned like me.
You know human distress. You stay by me even when no one else does.
You never forget me. You search me out.*

Let us give thanks that nothing, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

You are invited to take any of the small rainbows you may have and make the shape of a cross on your table.

Reading

Mark 15:38-47

You are invited to take a napkin and gently fold it around the small rainbows

“Tomb”: Meditation by Judy Davis.

Questions for Reflection

What in my life has felt lost or depressed?
For whom do my prayers need to be lifted this day:
those who grieve?
those who feel lost?
those who are without hope?

Prayer

Lord of sorrows, as we keep vigil today,
our prayers are joined with those of the angels and the women
and all who kept vigil over Christ's body as it lay in the tomb.
We remember today those whose grief is raw –
may your love be a balm of comfort and healing.
We pray for caregivers and those who keep vigil –
many of whom are women –
many of whom are unnamed –
that your love may work through them.
We pray for those facing death,
may they feel your never-ending presence
in their time of passing from this life to life eternal.
Despite the darkness of death, may your light that shines eternal
be witnessed through us and this world. Amen.

Hymn

Were you there

African-American spiritual

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
 3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh, some-times it caus - es me to
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, some-times it caus - es me to
 there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, some-times it caus - es me to

trem - ble trem - ble trem - ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 trem - ble trem - ble trem - ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 trem - ble trem - ble trem - ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Thank you to those who assisted with leadership in this worship service:

Reader: Garland Pierce

Meditations and Prayers written by: Rebecca Daniel, Gladys Yegon, Nina Kiderlin, Laurel Borisenko, Ralston Deffenbaugh, Judy Davis

Musicians: Rena Igarashi, Regine Kummer

Videography: Ray Woodcock

This Week's Schedule: *

Saturday, 3 April	18h00	Easter Vigil, Croix de Rozon
	20h30	Easter Vigil, Croix de Rozon
		Online worship (on your own)
Sunday, 4 April	11h00	Worship on Easter Sunday (online)
	12h15	Coffee hour
<i>Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9h00–17h00; Fridays, noon–16h00</i>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Worship Services

Easter Vigil, 3 April – There will be two options for worship on Holy Saturday.

- **Option 1:** We will hold an outdoor Easter Vigil at a farm in [Croix de Rozon](#). We'll gather around a bonfire in the field and hear stories of God bringing light from darkness and life from death. Sign up [here](#).
- **Option 2:** For those unable to join the in-person service (or for everyone if the weather is bad), there will be an Easter Vigil audio recording available, featuring music, prayers, and members of the congregation reading biblical texts for this night.

Easter Sunday, 4 April – Worship this Sunday will be livestreamed from the sanctuary at 11h00.

Registration is required for all in-person gatherings. More information [here](#).