

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask a council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P - Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

C - I am here.

P - Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

C - I am here.

P - Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

C - I am here.

P - Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

C - I am here.

P - Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

C - I am here.

CONFESSION

P - Almighty God,

C - We promise to be faithful, but we often fall away. We forsake you. We flee from you. We betray you. We deny you. We watch from afar. We are afraid. Change us, we pray. You are forgiven and loved. Amen.

HYMN - Go to Dark Gethsemane ELW #347 vs 1-3

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

DRAMATIC READINGS - The Last Days of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Mark

Praying in the garden, Mark 14:32-42

Arrest of Jesus, Mark 14:43-51

HYMN - Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! your God does undertake
To guide the future as he has the past;
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul! when dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul! your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Jesus before the council Mark 14:52-65

HYMN - To the tune of ELW #640 (different words - printed here)

My song is love un-known, my Sav-ior's love to me, Love to the
love-less shown, that they might love-ly be. O who am I, that for my

sake my God should take frail flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die.

God left the rich-est throne sal-va-tion to be-stow; But Christ as flesh and bone the world re-fused to know. But, O my Friend, my Friend in-deed, who at my need did life ex-pend; who at my need did life ex-pend.

Some-times they threw down palms and sweet-est prais-es sang. Ho-san-nas and glad psalms through streets and mar-kets rang. Then “Cru-cify!” is all their breath, for blood and death they thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.

Peter’s denial Mark 14:66-72

Jesus before Pilate Mark 15:1-15

OFFERING HYMN - O Sacred Head Now Wounded ELW #351 vs 1-3

OFFERING RESPONSE - Doxology

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

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

P - Gracious God,

C - May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time; to share your love with the world. We dedicate our offering and ourselves. Amen

The soldiers mock Jesus Mark 15:16-20

Jesus is crucified Mark 15:21-33

SPECIAL MUSIC - Were You There Saxophone (Les Lieneman)

Jesus dies Mark 15:34-41

HYMN - The Old Rugged Cross vs 1,2,4

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]

Burial of Jesus Mark 15:42-47

HYMN - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW #803

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.

Pastor - Jesus body has been placed in the tomb. Go in silence and in peace.