

**Episcopal
Church of the Incarnation**



**Good Friday
Service Booklet**

864-489-6183

www.incarnation-gaffney.org

secretary@Incarnation-Gaffney.org

**The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, Bishop
The Rev. Jenny Gettys, Rector
Mr. Matt Compton, Organist
Mrs. Bobbi Albert, Choir Director
Mrs. Angharad Torres, Secretary and Bookkeeper**

*We love and serve the Lord
by loving and serving others.*

The Officiant and crucifer enter the church in silence.

The people standing, the Officiant says

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." *Mark 8:34*

The Opening Hymn

Hymn 171

1 Go to dark Geth - se - ma - ne, ye that feel the tempt-er's power;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal-vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour;
O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;

turn not from his griefs a - way, learn of Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.
"It is fi - nished!" hear him cry; learn of Je - sus Christ to die.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: *Petra*, Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

The Collect

The Officiant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people process behind the crucifer to the first station.

The First Station Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

The people stop before "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane" by Heinrich Hofmann (German, 1824-1911).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Matthew 26:36-41

Jesus went with the disciples to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took

with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The Meditation

A warm breeze stirs the leaves for a moment, but then the familiar heaviness of the night air returns. Jesus has left us under the trees, and I can just hear the rise and fall of his voice in the distance as he prays. He begins gently, meekly, as he always does. But his tone soon changes. He becomes agitated, anxious. He even shouts at one point, "Why?" and I hear him pound his fist on the hard rocks. James, John, and I look at one another, not sure what to do. Should we go to him, try to comfort him as he's done us so many times? Or should we stay here in the soft grass, the weight of our wine-soaked heads resting against the strong trees? As Jesus' voice rises again in anguish, I feel my heavy eyelids drooping closed. Perhaps I'll rest for just a minute, and then go to him...

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the second station singing

Were you there when they couldn't stay awake?

Were you there when they couldn't stay awake?

Oh - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they couldn't stay awake?

The Second Station Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested

The people stop before "The Kiss of Judas," 1442 by Fra Angelico (Italian, 1400-1455).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Luke 22:47-53

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!"

The Meditation

I have to do something. Jesus is just standing there, staring at Judas. The guards have their swords drawn and they're about to haul him away, and he's just standing there. I have to do something. I know what Jesus would say - something about patience and God's plan and waiting for it to unfold. But there isn't time for that. If we don't act quickly, it'll be too late. In desperation, I draw my sword and swing it at the one nearest me, trying to keep him away from Jesus. But as the man's hand goes to his bleeding ear, Jesus looks at me, disappointment and sadness lining his face. He gently touches the wound left by my frantic blade, stopping the flow of blood and easing tensions. Then he turns to the guards and bows his head, willingly becoming their captive.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the third station singing

Were you there when he kissed him on the cheek?
Were you there when he kissed him on the cheek?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he kissed him on the cheek?

The Third Station Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

The people stop before "Christ Before Caiaphus" by Gerrit Van Honthorst (Dutch, 1592-1656).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Mark 14:53, 55-64

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power', and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

The Meditation

I've been looking forward to this day for some time now. Like the rest of the Sanhedrin, I've heard the reports of Jesus' outrageous teachings, of how he openly questions Judaic law, the code that has governed the people of God for centuries, and of how he encourages his followers to flout tradition as he does. We all agree that he's become a threat to the church, and we relish the opportunity to charge him with his crimes and end his teaching.

We found many who are willing to come forward and accuse him. Some accuse him of fraternizing with known prostitutes and thieves; others claim he ignored Sabbath law by healing on the Holy Day. Still others say he ignored the purity code by eating without ritually cleansing his hands first. The charges are many and varied, but Jesus' response is always the same: he stands unmoved through it all. He doesn't attempt to justify his actions with elaborate theological defenses, backed up by passage after passage of scripture taken out of context. He doesn't even deny the charges. He just stands there.

The longer the proceedings go on, the more I feel the heat of anger rising in my face. Does he not understand the power we have over him? Is he mocking us with his silence? Finally I wave the accusers away and question him myself, "Do you honestly claim to be the Messiah?!" As I stare into his eyes, I see the answer before he opens his mouth to utter it. For just a moment, I'm sure I'm looking into the eyes of the Lord. But then I flush, embarrassed that I've been taken in by him, and rise to give my verdict before anyone has a chance to notice.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the fourth station singing

Were you there when the priests said he should die?
Were you there when the priests said he should die?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the priests said he should die?

The Fourth Station Jesus is Denied by Peter

The people stop before "Denial of St. Peter," 1660, by Rembrandt van Rijn (Dutch, 1606-1669).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered

that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

The Meditation

I don’t understand why he’s denying it. I saw him with the man as the guards brought him in. I noticed him because, as he ran past me, his cloak almost flew off his shoulders. I reached out to catch it, but he tightened his grip on it just in time. I’m sure this is the same man. And I’m eager to know what the charges are against Jesus, the man from Nazareth. I’ve heard rumors as I’ve sat by the fire - some say he’s a blasphemer, while others say he tried to overthrow Rome. All I know for sure is that he’s been in there with the Sanhedrin all day, and there’s been a steady stream of witnesses in and out. So the charges have to be serious.

But when I start to question the man by the fire, just trying to get information from him, he panicks, looking around nervously, and then leaves the fire’s warmth. Outside a crowd gathers around him as others notice that he’s one of Jesus’ companions. He’s like a trapped animal, pacing and looking anxiously in all directions, trying to find a way to escape the prying crowd. His denials become more violent and desperate until finally he breaks down and weeps in the middle of the courtyard, the worried lines in his face running with dusty tears.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the fifth station singing

Were you there when he heard the rooster crow?

Were you there when he heard the rooster crow?

Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he heard the rooster crow?

The Fifth Station Jesus is Judged by Pilate

The people stop before "What is Truth? (Christ and Pilate)," 1890, by Nikolai Nikolaevich Ge (Russian, 1831-1894).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

John 18:28a, 29-38a

Then the chief priests took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the

chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

The Meditation

I don't know why I'm being bothered with this silly case; I can look at the man and tell he's no king. A thief, maybe - a beggar, certainly. But a king? Impossible!

The Jews are insistent, though, and the last thing I need is the Jews stirring up trouble. So I have the ragged man brought inside where we can speak privately. I look him in the eyes and ask him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" I expect him to shuffle his feet, look at the floor, and mumble some incomprehensible nonsense like deranged beggars generally do. But he returns my gaze - not defiantly, just calmly. And he begins to speak of his kingdom, a kingdom unlike Rome, a kingdom for those who believe in the Truth. His rhetoric is treasonous, yet he doesn't comport himself like an irate traitor. As I ask him, "What is Truth," I realize I'm no longer interrogating him. I'm really asking. And I believe he has the answer.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the sixth station singing

Were you there when he said he was a king?

Were you there when he said he was a king?

Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he said he was a king?

The Sixth Station Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

The people stop before "Christ Mocked in the House of Caiaphus" by James Tissot (French, 1836-1902).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Meditation

I don't mean to start such a melee, but I'm frustrated. Everywhere this man has been for the past week, crowds have gathered. And my unit has been sent every time to keep the peace. The worst was the scene at the temple market - he went mad, shouting and turning over tables. Merchandise and money bags spilled out on the ground, and shoppers and merchants alike pounced on it, wrestling one another for each coin and cake. And while we tried to restore order, this man just walked away.

But now he's our prisoner, and I can't help myself - I taunt him. I can't tell you what I say, but I can tell you what follows. Another guard chimes in, then another and another. Before I know it, the whole cohort surrounds him, prodding him with spears and pulling at his beard, shouting the most vile insults at him.

As the mob becomes more frenzied, the prisoner becomes more calm. He never tries to wrestle free and never shouts back. He doesn't even raise his hands to ward off the blows. He withstands everything we hurl at him, enduring our frenzy until we're spent. I fall to my knees in anguish, ashamed of what I've started but powerless to stop it.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the seventh station singing

Were you there when they crowned the Lord with thorns?
Were you there when they crowned the Lord with thorns?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crowned the Lord with thorns?

The Seventh Station Jesus Takes up his Cross

The people stop before “The Carrying of the Cross” by Hieronymus Bosch (Dutch, 1450-1516).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

John 19:16b-17

So the chief priests took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

The Meditation

As they lead him out, I can see the weariness in his face. I'm not sure of all they've done to him, but I know he endured much. And now he has to endure the crowded streets. He's bowed down under the weight of the crossbeam, and not strong enough to hold it upright. As the crowd jostles him, the heavy crossbeam wobbles and strikes one man across the face. Someone in the crowd grabs it just before it hits a woman and thrusts it back toward Jesus' head. I hear the thud as the beam smacks into his skull, and I see him stagger into the drunkards in front of him. They turn angrily, shoving him backward and causing the beam to weave through the air again.

Why aren't the guards helping him? Can't they see that he can't handle the beam? Can't they see that the streets are too crowded, that people are getting hurt? Can't they see that the crowd is becoming a mob, ready to turn on my Jesus? My arms ache to reach out to help him, but I keep them to myself and look away in shame.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the eighth station singing

Were you there when he carried his own cross?
Were you there when he carried his own cross?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he carried his own cross?

The Eighth Station Jesus is Helped by Simon to Carry his Cross

The people stop before "Calvary" by Caravaggio (Italian, 1571-1610).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Luke 23:26-31

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

The Meditation

All I want is to go my way in peace. I see the criminal dragging his cross, guards all around him and shrieking women trailing behind. I consider leaving the road and cutting through the fields, but decide that might attract more attention than just walking on by. So I lower my eyes and keep walking toward them.

Just as I think I've escaped notice, I feel the jab of the blunt end of a spear in my side as a guard tells me Rome needs me to carry this man's cross for him. Reluctantly, I reach out to take the man's burden and see for the first time who he is. I've passed this man in the road before. Only last time he was riding a donkey and the crowds were shouting his praises, throwing down their cloaks in front of him and ripping branches from the palm trees to wave at him. How can this be the same man? How can he have gone from king to criminal in just a few days? I realize my disgust is surely evident on my face, and I quickly look away, trying to spare the man my condemnation.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the ninth station singing

Were you there when they forced the man to help?

Were you there when they forced the man to help?

Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they forced the man to help?

The Ninth Station Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

The people stop before "Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem, No. 8 in 14 Stations of the Cross Series," 2002, by Laura James (American).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Luke 23:27-31

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

The Meditation

I don't know what to do with my grief. And I don't know why my despair is so deep. I know I weep for him - for his pain and torment. And I know I weep for his mother who's witnessing it all. But until he speaks, I haven't realized I weep also for myself. I weep at my powerlessness to relieve one bit of Mary's grief. I weep at my inability to speak out when the mob begins to turn on Jesus. I weep that I live among such brutes, and I weep that I'm one of the brutes. Mostly, though, I weep when I imagine how much more brutish we will be without Jesus here with us. My baby sputters in my arms and I realize I've been holding her too tightly. I think I'm trying to protect her from it all.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the tenth station singing

Were you there when the women wept and wailed?
Were you there when the women wept and wailed?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the women wept and wailed?

The Tenth Station Jesus is Crucified

The people stop before "The Crucifixion, or Golgotha," 1893, by Nikolai Nikolaevich Ge (Russian, 1831-1894).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Luke 23:32-38, 44

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

The Meditation

The sound of it still rings in my ears. I hear the thud as Jesus lets his crossbeam fall to the ground. Then I hear the soldiers drag it over and nail it to the taller beam, the nails sliding easily through the dry wood.

I know they've gone to get Jesus because the women's wailing

crescendoes. I hear the crack and cough as the soldiers throw Jesus down onto the beams, knocking the wind out of him. But then comes the sound I can't get out of my head. I hear the ringing of metal against metal as the hammers send the heavy nails through his flesh and into the cross. I hear the tearing of his flesh as the nails rip through his hands and feet. And I hear the wailing of the women with each strike of the hammer. Underneath it all I expect to hear the gruff chatter of the guards, but they're strangely silent. All their jeering, their taunts, their rudeness stops. Even the leaders and the people gathered are eerily silent as they listen to the ringing of the nails finishing the work they began.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the eleventh station singing

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?

The Eleventh Station Jesus Promises his Kingdom to the Repentant Thief

The people stop before "Crucifixion," 1873, by Eduard Karl Franz Von Gebhardt (Estonian, 1838-1924).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Meditation

Can no one see clearly but me? Are the guards deaf? Are the chief priests blind? Here he is hanging on their cross, and still he condemns no one. He even shows kindness to the horrible-looking thief being put to death beside him. Why does no one intervene? The guards could walk away, leaving us free to take him down from the cross. The chief priests could rescind their charges against him. But everyone seems content just to stand here and let him die. Worst of all, God seems content to let it happen. Why doesn't he intervene? Why doesn't he stop our madness? Will he let us do even this to his own Son and do nothing to stop us?!

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the twelfth station singing

Were you there when he hung between the thieves?
Were you there when he hung between the thieves?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he hung between the thieves?

The Twelfth Station Jesus Entrusts Mary and John to One Another

The people stop before "Calvary, or Christ Between the Two Thieves with Mary and John the Baptist," 1475, by Antonello da Messina (Sicilian, 1430-1479).

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

John 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Meditation

It isn't supposed to be like this! Other mothers get to live out their days surrounded by their children and grandchildren. I knew my life wouldn't be quite like theirs. I knew Jesus would never marry, and I knew his calling would take him far from my side as he taught and healed. But this?! To have to watch helplessly as my baby is beaten and tortured, forced to endure things that would have broken the strongest of men. And now to watch as he struggles for each breath. I watch him pull himself upright so his lungs can fill, the nails ripping through the flesh in his hands with the effort. And I watch him slump back down, exhausted, after each breath. And still he spends his dearly-bought breath to speak to me and to John, to make sure I will be cared for in my dotage. The tenderness of it is too much to bear. I sit dumbly, unable even to summon tears. I am paralyzed in my grief.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the thirteenth station singing

Were you there when his mother wept for him?
Were you there when his mother wept for him?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when his mother wept for him?

The Thirteenth Station Jesus Dies on the Cross

The people stop before the detail of "Crucifixion," 1529.

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

Mark 15:33-38

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

A period of silence is kept.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The people follow the cross to the fourteenth station singing

Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?
Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?
Oh- - - sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when my Jesus breathed his last?

The Fourteenth Station Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

*The people stop before "Pieta of Villeneuve-les-Avignon," 1455, by
Enguerrand Quarton (French, 1410-1466).*

The Officiant says

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

People Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Reading

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Meditation

I close his eyes with a brush of my hand; I can't look into his lifeless eyes. All I can think about is the way his eyes showed that first night I met him. I was so scared, and he was so gentle. Now it's my turn to be gentle with him.

Preparing him for burial is hard work, and we go about it without talking. I lift and turn the heavy body as the women anoint and wrap. The first layers of linen are quickly soaked with the blood pooling in his wounded hands and side. But we keep wrapping and turning, and before long the wounds are completely covered with clean cloth. He isn't recognizable any more. Gone are the tender hands that reached out to me. Gone are the arms which welcomed me as his disciple. All that's still visible of him is his face, so recently contorted in pain, but now relaxed and peaceful.

We carry him into the tomb and lay him down as gently as we can. All that remains is to cover his face with the burial cloth. We sit there a long while, none of us ready to take the final step, to declare him truly dead and buried. Mary holds the cloth and reaches out to place it over him, her hands trembling. The cloth wavers over his face for what feels like an eternity. Finally I reach for it and place it over his face, covering the last part of my Lord.

The Officiant and People together say

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

On the final verse of the hymn, the people take their seats.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you
Were you there when they cru --- ci --- fied my Lord? Were you

there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh -----
there when they cru -- ci -- fied my Lord? Oh -----

some-times it caus--es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,
some-times it caus--es me to trem-ble, trem-ble,

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

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Were you There*, Afro-American spiritual; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.

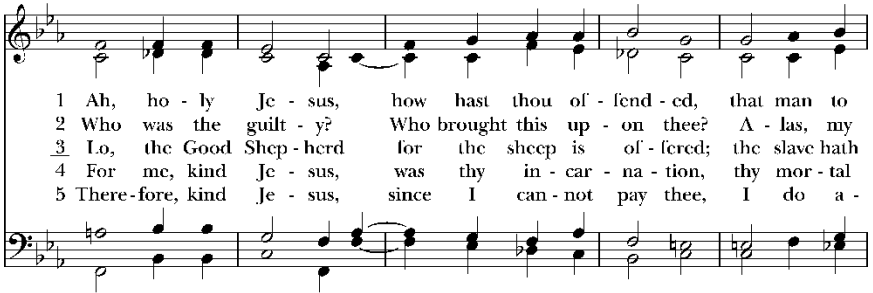
The Officiant prays

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;

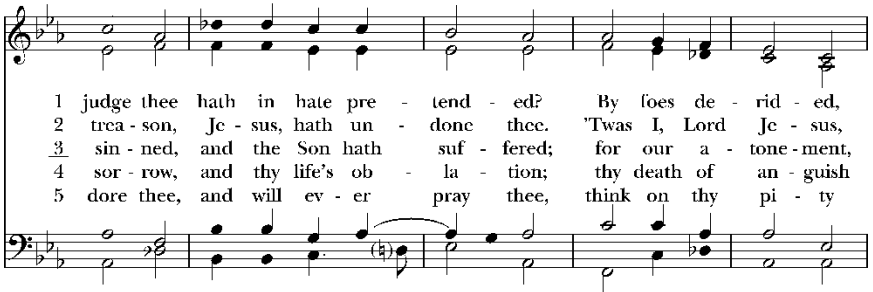
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

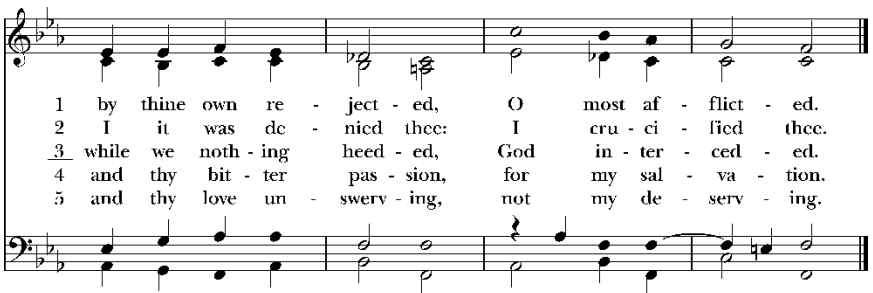
[H] 158



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed, that man to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thy in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



1 judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
2 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
3 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
4 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
5 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy pi - ty



1 by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
2 I it was de - niced thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.
3 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
4 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
5 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Words: Johann Heermann (1585-1647); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt. Music: *Herzliebster Jesu*, Johann Crüger (1598-1662), alt.

The Officiant and crucifer leave in silence. The people may remain in prayer or leave the church in silence.

THOSE WHO SERVE

	April 3 Good Friday 6:00pm
Altar Guild	Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick
Greeters	Ben Torres
Verger	Cynthia Glidden
Crucifer	Asher Torres
1 st Lector	Marilou Dutra
2 nd Lector	Marilou Dutra

CALENDAR

Friday, April 3	6:00pm Stations of the Cross Service
Saturday, April 4	10:00am Altar Guild
Sunday, April 5	10:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:15 Covered-Dish Brunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Episcopalians 101

Confirmation is the sacrament through which one officially joins the Episcopal Church. Preparing for Confirmation? Or just Episco-curious? Join us on Sundays at 9:30 starting April 12 as we learn about the strange and wonderful ways of Episcopalians.

Donations

To make an online contribution to Incarnation, go to our web site www.Incarnation-Gaffney.org and go to "Giving" under the "About" tab. Or scan the QR code to the right. To cover the fees associated with either of these ways of giving, check the "cover fees" box. And thank you!



Regular Schedule of Services

Sundays:

- 8:30am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Church
(quiet and contemplative)
- 9:30am Christian Formation for all ages
(Covered-Dish Breakfast first Sundays)
- 10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
with Nursery and Children's Chapel
also livestreamed on Facebook

Wednesdays in Lent:

- 8:00pm Compline livestreamed on Facebook

Prayer Group

In case of emergencies, confidential prayer requests can be sent out to the Daughters of the King, a group of women committed to praying confidentially for anyone in need of prayer. To add a name to the Daughters' list, fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering plate – it will be sent to the Daughters. If the need is immediate, call the Rev. Jenny Gettys at 489-6183 and she'll get word out right away.

2026 Vestry

Scott Glidden, Senior Warden and Worship
Joette Johnson, Junior Warden and Hospitality
Niccie Dearing, Outreach
Nancy Fowler, Pastoral Care
John Gelok, Administration
Morgan Johnson, Christian Formation
Ben Torres, Buildings and Grounds
Charlie Zinko, Communications and Evangelism

Ex Officio: Ed Harkins, Treasurer
Ex Officio: Cynthia Glidden, Clerk

Welcome to Incarnation!

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. Whether you are passing through, or this is the beginning of a longer relationship, welcome. You are today part of our family. We invite you to fill out one of the Welcome cards in the pew rack so that we can get to know you better. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or handed to the priest after the service.

Restrooms and a water fountain are located on the left side of the long hallway between the church and the parish hall. The nursery and children's classroom are at the end of the shorter hallway, also to the left of the long hallway. The Greeters are eager to point you in the right direction and to answer any questions you may have.

The Episcopal Church invites all baptized persons of any age to receive Communion. Complete instructions are found on page 21 of this booklet.

Children in Worship

We love the joyful noise of children in worship! They're welcome to wander, chatter, and make themselves at home as they take in the sights and sounds of worship.

On the table in the Narthex (the entry hall) you'll find a variety of children's items like Children's Bulletins and Bible Story Books.