

MOUNTAIN BROOK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



APRIL 18, 2025

6:00 p.m.

3405 BROOKWOOD ROAD • MOUNTAIN BROOK, ALABAMA 35223
WWW.MBPCUSA.ORG • (205) 967-5037

*Merciful God,
you gave your Son to suffer
the shame of the cross.
Save us from hardness of heart,
that, seeing him who died for us,
we may repent, confess our sin,
and receive your overflowing love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

** Please stand as you are able.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18, 2025

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

arr. G. Smoke

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Ogle

Leader: Surely he has borne our griefs
People: **and carried our sorrows;**
Leader: yet we esteemed him stricken,
People: **smitten by God, and afflicted.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty God,
look with mercy on your family
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
was willing to be betrayed
and to be given over to the hands of sinners
and to suffer death on the cross;
who now lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

* HYMN 207 *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine* (vv. 5-8)

TENEBRAE

✠ THE WORD ✠

We hear the Word of God read and proclaimed through Scripture, music, and preaching.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

from John 18

1

Jesus . . . went forth with his disciples
across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden,
which he and his disciples entered.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place;
for Jesus often met there with his disciples.

So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers
and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees,
went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him,
came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?”

They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus said to them, “I am he.”

Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

When he said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again, he asked them, “Whom do you seek?”

And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he;
so, if you seek me, let these men go.”

This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken,
“I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”

Then Simon Peter, having a sword,
drew it and struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his right ear.
The slave’s name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath;
shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?”

2

So, the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Judean authorities seized Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the religious authorities that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

3

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman who guarded the gate said to Peter, “Are you not also one of this man’s disciples?” He said, “I am not.” Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

4

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jewish people come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

5

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.
They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?"
He denied it and said, "I am not."
One of the servants of the high priest,
a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off,
asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?"
Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

6

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters.
It was early. They themselves did not enter the headquarters,
so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.
So Pilate went out to them and said,
"What accusation do you bring against this man?"
They answered him,
"If this man were not an evildoer,
we would not have handed him over."
Pilate said to them,
"Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."
The religious authorities said to him,
"It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."
This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken
to show by what death he was to die.

7

Pilate entered the headquarters again and called Jesus, and said to him,
“Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord,
or did others say it to you about me?”

Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew?”

Your own nation and the chief priests
have handed you over to me; what have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingship is not of this world:
if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight,
that I might not be handed over to the religious authorities;
but my kingship is not from the world.”

Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?”

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king.

For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world,
to bear witness to the truth.

Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.”

Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

8

After Pilate had said this, he went to the religious authorities again,
and told them, “I find no crime in him.

But you have a custom

that I should release one man for you at the Passover;
will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?”

They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him.
And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns,
and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe;
they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
and struck him with their hands.

Pilate went out again and said to them,
"See, I am bringing him out to you,
that you may know that I find no crime in him."

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

When the chief priests and the officers saw him,
they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Pilate said to them,
"Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him."

The religious authorities answered him,
"We have a law, and by that law he ought to die,
because he has made himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid;
he entered the headquarters again and said to Jesus,
"Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me?
Do you not know that I have power to release you,
and power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered him,
"You would have no power over me
unless it had been given you from above;
therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin."

10

Upon this Pilate sought to release him,
but the religious authorities cried out,
“If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend;
every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.”
When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out
and sat down on the judgment seat
at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha.
Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover;
it was about the sixth hour.
He said to the religious authorities, “Behold your King!”
They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”
Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”
The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”
They handed him over to them to be crucified.

11

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross,
to the place called the place of a skull,
which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.
There they crucified him,
and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.
Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross;
it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”
Many of the Judeans read this title,
for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.
The Jewish chief priests then said to Pilate,
“Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’
but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”
Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

12

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus
they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier;
also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam,
woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another,

“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it
to see whose it shall be.”

This was to fulfill the scripture,

“They parted my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

13

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus
were his mother, and his mother’s sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother,

and the disciple whom he loved standing near,

he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”

And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

14

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished,
said (to fulfill the scripture), “I thirst.”

A bowl full of vinegar stood there;

so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop

and held it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished.”

And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

ANTHEM

Were You There
Allison Sanders, Soprano

Spiritual

15

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the crosses on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the religious authorities asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead they did not break his legs.

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth – that you also may believe.

For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled. “Not a bone of him shall be broken.” And again another scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

16

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

SOLEMN INTERCESSION

Rev. Madison Roberts

Dear people of God,
God sent Jesus into the world,
not to condemn the world,
but that the world through him might be saved,
that all who believe in him
might be delivered from the power of sin and death
and become heirs with him of eternal life.

Let us pray for the one holy catholic
and apostolic church of Christ throughout the world:

for its unity in witness and service,
for all church leaders and ministers
and the people whom they serve,
for all the people of this presbytery,
for all Christians in this community,
for those about to be baptized,
that God will confirm the church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

(Silence)

Eternal God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified.

Receive our prayers which we offer before you
for all members of your holy church,
that in our vocation and ministry
we may truly and devoutly serve you;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth,
and for those in authority among them:

the President of the United States,
and the Congress and Supreme Court,
for the members and representatives
of the United Nations,
for all who serve the common good,
that by God's help
they may seek justice and truth,
and live in peace and concord.

(Silence)

Almighty God,
kindle, we pray, in every heart
the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth,
that justice and peace may increase,
until the earth is filled
with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind:
for the hungry and homeless, the destitute and the oppressed,
and all who suffer persecution, doubt, and despair,
for the sorrowful and bereaved,
for prisoners and captives and those in mortal danger,
that God will comfort and relieve them,
and grant them the knowledge of God's love,
and stir up in us the will and patience
to minister to their needs.

(Silence)

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them,
for the sake of him who suffered for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all
who have not received the gospel of Christ:

for all who have not heard the words of salvation,
for all who have lost their faith,
for all whose sin has made them indifferent to Christ,
for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed,
for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ,
and persecutors of his disciples,
for all who in the name of Christ
have persecuted others,
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience.

(Silence)

Merciful God, creator of the peoples of the earth
and lover of souls,
have compassion on all who do not know you
as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ.
Let your gospel be preached with grace and power
to those who have not heard it.
Turn the hearts of those who resist it,
and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray;
that there may be one flock under one shepherd,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that with all who have departed this life,
and have died in the peace of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to God alone,
we may be accounted worthy
to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord,
and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

(Silence)

Eternal God of unchanging power and light,
look with mercy on your whole church.
Bring to completion your saving work,
so that the whole world may see
the fallen lifted up, the old made new,
and all things brought to perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Finally,
let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, by
praying together:

**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.**

Leader: O my people, O my church,
What have I done to you,
or in what have I offended you?
Answer me.
I led you forth from the land of Egypt
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I led you through the desert forty years,
and fed you with manna:
I brought you through tribulation
and penitence,
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: What more could I have done for you
that I have not done?
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,
I made you the branches of my vine;
but when I was thirsty,
you gave me vinegar to drink
and pierced with a spear
the side of your Savior,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me
to the judgment hall of Pilate.
I scourged your enemies
and brought you to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation
from the rock, but you have given me gall
and left me to thirst,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I gave you a royal scepter,
and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.
I raised you on high with great power,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name
and seek high places in my kingdom.
I offered you my body and blood,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts to the Counselor.
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel,
and you turned on them
with persecution and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs
with them of my covenants
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

Leader: I came to you as the least
of your brothers and sisters;
I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**Choir: Holy God, Holy and mighty,
Holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.**

After the choir sings last response, please depart in silence.

Our Holy Week observances continue on Sunday with services of worship at 6:30 a.m. (in the sanctuary, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:15a.m.) and worship at 10:30 a.m. (in the sanctuary).

READERS

Judy Wilson

Mindy Faircloth

Karen Ogle

Jimmy Ogle