

# PLACES *of the* PASSION

## Pilate's Judgment Hall



*Pilate said to them,  
"Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?"  
They all said to him, "Crucify him!"  
- Matthew 27:22*

March 24, 2021

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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## OPENING HYMN

*Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains | CW 102*

*Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-All; 4-Women; 5-All*

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**C: To see the depths of his love.**

M: To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**C: To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

M: To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**C: We walk with Jesus to Gabbatha, where Pilate judges him.**

M: To hear about Jewish leaders, a prisoner named Barabbas and even Pilate's wife.

**C: It all boils down to three words—innocent, guilty and free.**

M: Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**C: I shall follow where you guide!**

♪ **Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.** ♪

## CONFESSION

M: Forgiving Father, though I don't like to admit it, I am a sinner, much like Barabbas—a rebel and a wretch.

**C: I am born dead in transgressions and sins; lost and without hope; doomed to perish; and blinded by the god of this age.**

M: My finest deeds are still soiled with sin and all my righteous acts are like unclean rags. I am just as much a sinner as Barabbas.

**C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,  
Christ's love is greater.*

## **PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**M:** Hear the good news! Even though our righteousness is tainted, the righteousness of Christ is not. Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. Because he walked the way of sacrifice, Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with us abide!

**C:** **We shall follow where you guide!**

## **READING**

*Romans 8:1-4*

## **SERMON TEXT**

*Matthew 27:11-26*

## **HYMN**

*My Song Is Love Unknown | CW 110 (1-3,5)  
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 5-All*

## **SERMON**

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYERS**

**M:** Dear Lord Jesus, you've freed us from the delusion of trying to earn and maintain a relationship with you; from the anxiety of wondering what you think about us; from the chains of condemnation and from fear of death. That's why we rejoice to say, "If the Son sets you free."

**C:** **You will be free, indeed!**

**M:** Dear Lord Jesus, only your mercy and grace can help us see, receive and trust our Gospel freedoms. Send us your Word and Spirit so that we live by the truth, "If the Son sets you free."

**C:** **You will be free, indeed!**

**M:** Dear Lord Jesus, free us from being arrogant, aggravated, and annoyed with people. Turn our angry reactions into slower and kinder responses. Help us use fewer words and listen more.

Send us your Word and Spirit so that we share this truth with the world, “If the Son sets you free.”

**C: You will be free, indeed!**

M: Dear Lord Jesus, unshackle the chains of our lingering doubts and insecurities. Empower us to throw off the grave-clothes of shame and feelings of failure. Heal our wounds and free us from bitterness. Send us your Word and Spirit so that we reflect this truth, “If the Son sets you free.”

**C: You will be free, indeed!**

M: Dear Lord Jesus, free us for larger hearts toward the lost, more mercy for doubters and lavish love for all people. May our spouses feel cherished and appreciated, our children secure, and our loved ones treasured and valued.

**C: In your mercy, grant these and all our requests. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

M: Jesus invites us to walk with him to Pilate's judgment hall, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

**C: Let us ever walk with Jesus! Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed | CW 129  
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-All; 4-Women; 5-All*

