

Places of the Passion

Week 5:

Pilate's Judgment Hall

Order of Service

*Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"
They all said, "Let him be crucified!" Matthew 27:22*

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

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

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

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

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C **We walk with Jesus to Pilate's judgment hall.**

P 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.**

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

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

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,

Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; 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 and Forgiveness

P Forgiving Father, though I don't like to admit it, I am a sinner, much like Barabbas—

C **A rebel and a wretch.**

P Born dead in transgressions and sins.

C **Lost and without hope.**

P Doomed to perish.

C **Blinded by the god of this age.**

P My finest deeds are still soiled with sin.

C **And all my righteous acts are like unclean rags.**

P I am 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.)

P Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—
for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That's
why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

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

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading ... Exodus 14:22–29

Epistle Reading ... Romans 6:1–11

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 27:11–23

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above, full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray. 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!**

P 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!**

P 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!

P 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!

P 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 Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

P 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!

Alas, and did my Savior bleed? And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?

Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died for his own creatures’ sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne’er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away, ’tis all that I can do.

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