

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, and watch with me awhile,

A: We come to stand by the cross.

L: Come, and pray with me awhile,

A: We come to stand with Jesus.

L: Come, and mourn with me awhile,

A: We come to weep for Jesus.

L: Come, and proclaim God's victory,

A: We come to open our hearts to Jesus, the Crucified.

Opening Hymn #231 – *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sung Response #525 – *“Behold, the Lamb of God”*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

First Reading: Matthew 26:57-66

Unison Prayer:

Almighty God, in Christ, You stood silent before false accusers. Justice was blinded by lies and by the desires of the powerful to have their way. Strengthen our hearts this day, that we may always stand up for the truth. Amen.

Sung Response #234 – *“Ah! Holy Jesu, how hast Thou Offended”*

Second Reading: Matthew 26:69-75

Unison Prayer:

Almighty God, we hate to imagine that we would desert or deny You, Your Son, or Your way. On this day, when we see

that Your commitment to us cost You everything, deepen our commitment to You. Strengthen us whenever we are tempted to deny You in our words or in our actions. Amen.

Sung Response – *“According to Thy Gracious Word”*

Third Reading: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-24

Unison Prayer:

Merciful God, we come before You in sorrow and awe, remembering the day Your Son stood silent before power, condemned by fear, betrayed by crowds, and handed over to suffering. We confess our own silence in the face of injustice, our complicity in the world's brokenness, and our longing for a love that redeems us. Strengthen us to follow Christ through the shadows, to stand with the truth, and to trust in Your mercy that does not fail. Amen.

Sung Response #547 – *“Lord, have Mercy upon Us”*

Fourth Reading: Matthew 27:27-40

Unison Prayer:

Gracious God, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. People mock You, and we do not know what to say. People curse Your Name, and we remain silent. We watch others carry the cross for You, yet we draw back from shouldering more responsibility for Your sake. Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Sung Response #239 – *“O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded”*

Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:45-51, 54

Unison Prayer:

God of life, it is unbearable to contemplate Your death in Christ. The taunts pierce our hearts like the nails; the pain is beyond our imagining. Today it feels as though we are there –

watching, waiting, weeping. When the darkness of pain overshadows us, help us remember that You know our suffering better than anyone. Amen

Hymn #237 – *“Oh Come and Mourn with Me Awhile”* (seated)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 27:55-61

WORDS OF REFLECTION

“When Faith Simply Stays”

Penitential Hymn #238 – *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Unison Prayers

Jesus, to be God’s Son is to carry the weight of God’s world on your shoulders. No wonder it felt like you were alone in the world. You carry the weight of our sin and sorrow, our failure and frailty. Whenever our eyes take in the cross, help us remember your great love at the heart of our loneliness. May the arms of the cross, your arms, embrace us and keep us steadfast.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, / for by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world. Through the tree we were made slaves, / and by Your holy Cross we are set free: The fruit of the tree betrayed us, / but the Son of God redeemed us. O Saviour of the world, Who by Your Cross and precious Blood have redeemed us: / Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech You, O Lord.

DEPARTURE IN SILENCE

We depart in silence, keeping vigil with Christ until the day of resurrection.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ



St. John’s Presbyterian Church

Saint George the Martyr Parish

April 3, 2026