

# Hearts Broken Open

A Tenebrae Service for Good Friday

## Greeting

Today is a painful day in the story of our faith. We learn about betrayal, abuse, and murder. We feel heartbreak and grief. We hear echoes of the most painful parts of our own lives, the lives of those we love, and the lives of our neighbors who suffer around the world. As our perception adjusts to the growing darkness with each extinguished candle, our hearts adjust to the deepening discomfort of the Passion story. As we witness new and deeper things in the dark, our hearts perceive moments of kindness, acts of compassion, and instances of forgiveness amid the pain.

*You will have time for reflection during each part of the evening. You can draw, color, or write on each page in this booklet. You may also look at some of the art that has been created during Lent that is shown on the screen. You may also reflect through song, as we have a song that will be sung during each section.*

Tonight, the story of Jesus' death will remind us not only of our ultimate liberation from death, but also of the quiet joy our Creator holds for us when we cannot carry it ourselves. As Christians, we hold the grief of this day alongside the goodness of God. We know this story is not the end.

## Gathering Song

Don't Be Afraid

ACS 1027

## Opening Prayer

**Open our hearts, O God, even to the point of breaking. If they break, let them be broken open to receive the love and awe waiting at the foot of the cross. Open them to our neighbors, here at home and around the world. Open them to the courage to accept what shadows can reveal. Open them to joy that waits beyond the pain.**

**Amen.**

# Part 1: Mary of Bethany Anoints Jesus

Reading: Mark 14:1-9

Come, Thou Almighty King, ELW 408

## Creative Reflection

When has someone performed an outrageously kind act for you? How did you feel?  
When have you performed or witnessed such an act for someone else?



## Prayer

Holy One, an act of extravagant kindness bolstered your child for terrible suffering to come. When suffering finds us and those we love, pour out such compassion on us. Soften our hearts that we can pour ourselves out in kindness and service to others. Let greater suffering always inspire greater care.

**Amen.**

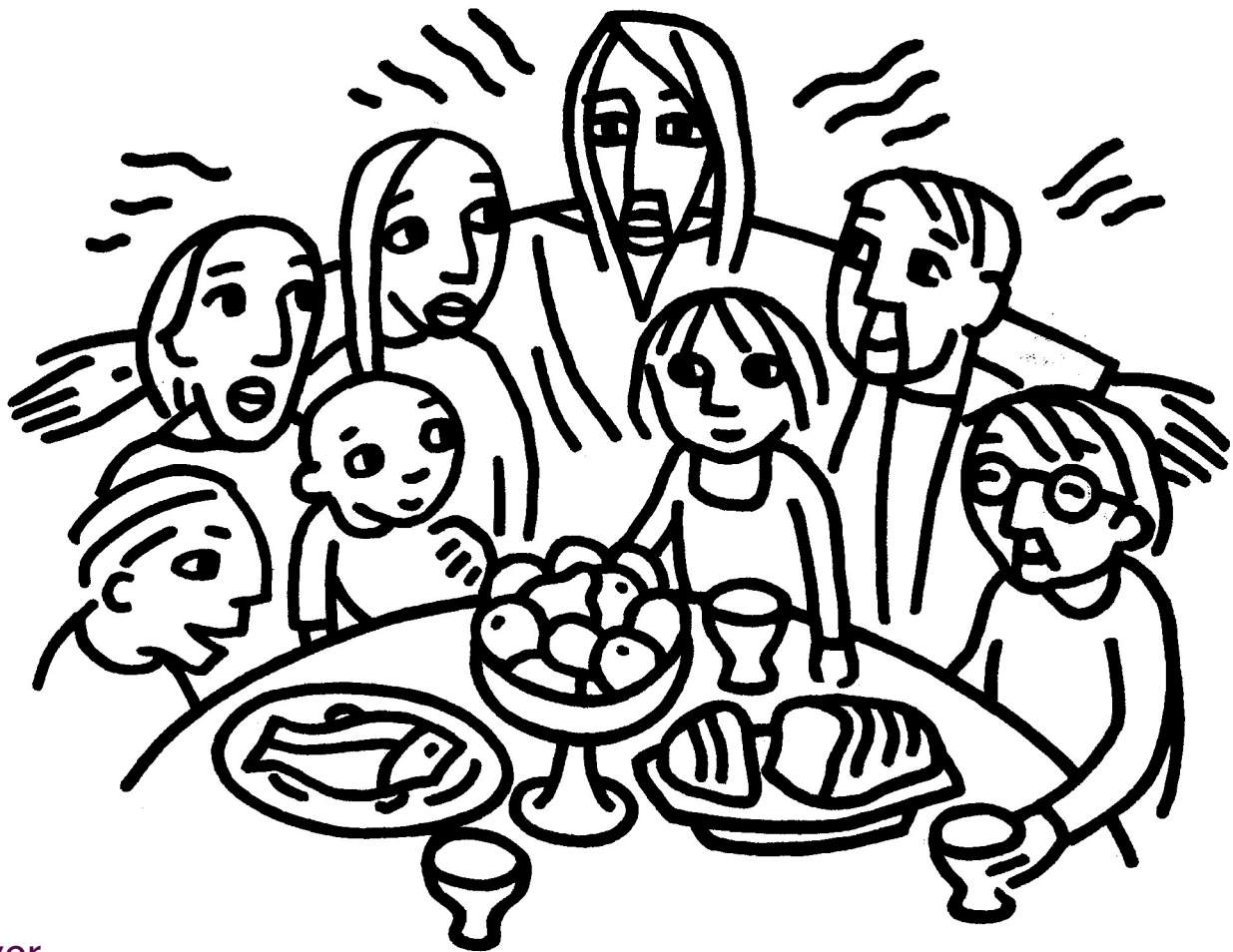
## Part 2: The Passover Meal

Reading: Mark 14:10-26

By Your Hand You Feed Your People, ELW 469

### Creative Reflection

In this reading, betrayal and celebration are intertwined. When have you felt betrayal or discord break into a time of joy, or joy break into a time of pain and disappointment? Have you seen this in your church, neighborhood, or nation?



### Prayer

Holy One, even in moments of deepest human failure, you are there. Even in times of betrayal and abandonment, you are near. You are present to us in bread and cup, and you are present to us in the imperfect human companions you've given us. Break our hearts open to recognize you and the gifts you offer.

**Amen.**

## Part 3: Prayer and Betrayal

Reading: Mark 14: 32-46

Stay With Me, ELW 348

### Creative Reflection

What is your relationship to prayer? How is it reflected in the disciples' responses? Have you ever prayed for God to prevent something from happening, but it happened anyway?



### Prayer

Holy One, allow our prayer to call out so continuously and to listen so fervently that, waking or sleeping, we are always connected to you. In the silence, the rant, the plea, the praise, let us always be drawn deeper into relationship.

**Amen.**

## Part 4: Peter Denies Jesus

Reading: Mark 14: 53-54, 66-72

Give Me Jesus, ELW 770

### Creative Reflection

When have you denied your connection to Jesus, perhaps not only with words, but with actions? When has your church failed to follow Jesus faithfully? When have you corrected the course?



### Prayer

Holy One, give us faith to claim you with what we do and what we say. And when we do not, send us companions to remind us of your call and to show us grace for our failures.

**Amen.**

## Part 5: Jesus is Crucified

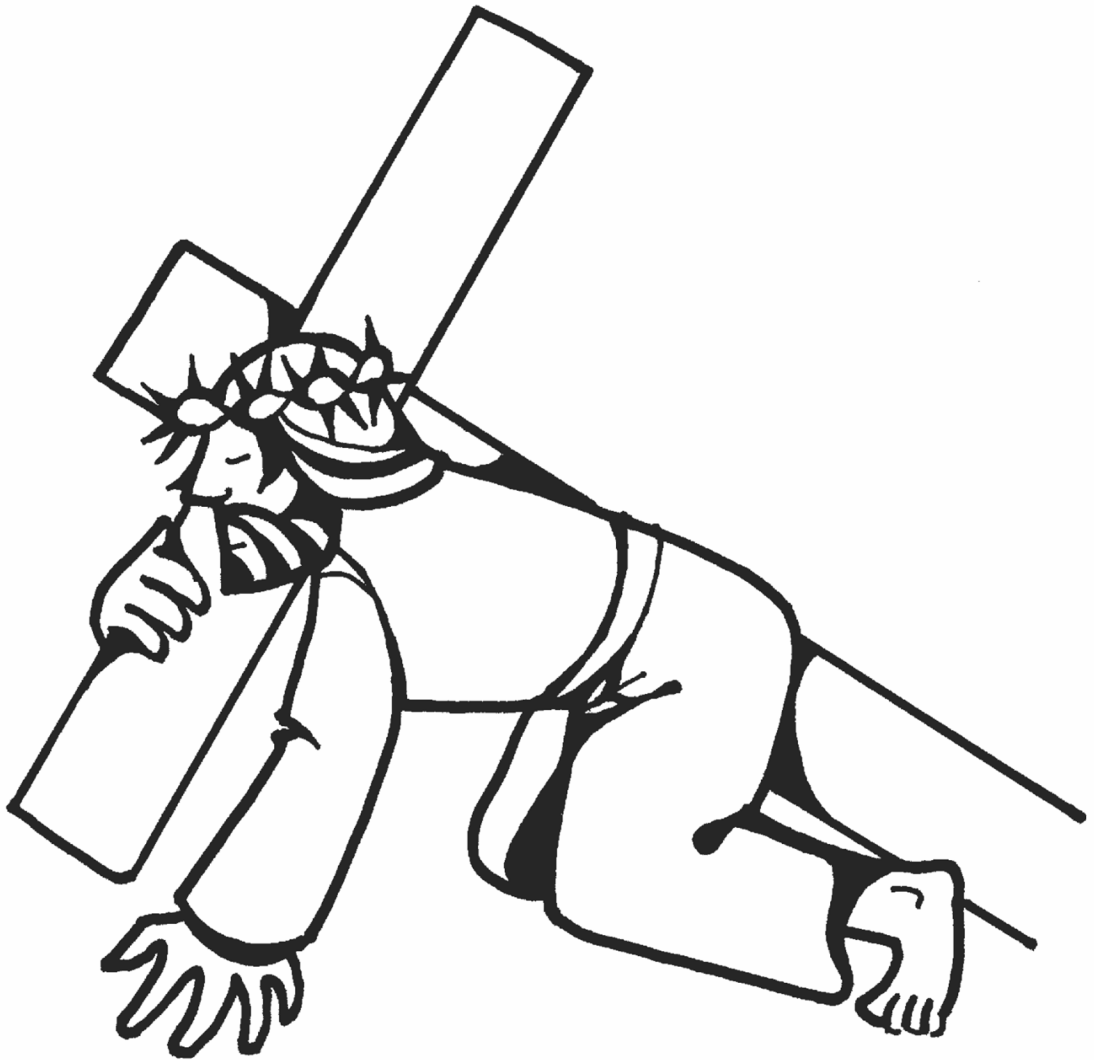
Reading: Mark 15: 16-40

Homily Pastor Wes

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, ELW 351

### Creative Reflection

What do you feel in your body as you hear this reading? Where have you witnessed Jesus' crucifixion again in the suffering of others?



### Prayer

Holy One, Jesus' death destroyed death and all that would separate us from you. Yet your children still suffer without any need or reason. Liberate us so that we turn to free and heal others who are still crucified today.

**Amen.**

## Part 6: Jesus is buried

Reading: Mark 15: 42-47

Offering

Sanctuary Choir      Ah, Holy Jesus

### Creative Reflection

What last acts of love and respect have you performed for a loved one? What do you hope someone does for you?



### Prayer

Holy One, even after all he suffered, Jesus' friends tended his body with love. May we tend lovingly to all the dead, so that our last acts and last words testify to your love that lasts far beyond death.

**Amen.**

# Part 7: Hearts Broken Open

## Bidding Prayer

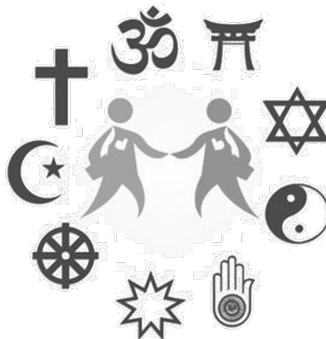
For the church



For our Jewish neighbors



For people of other faiths and none





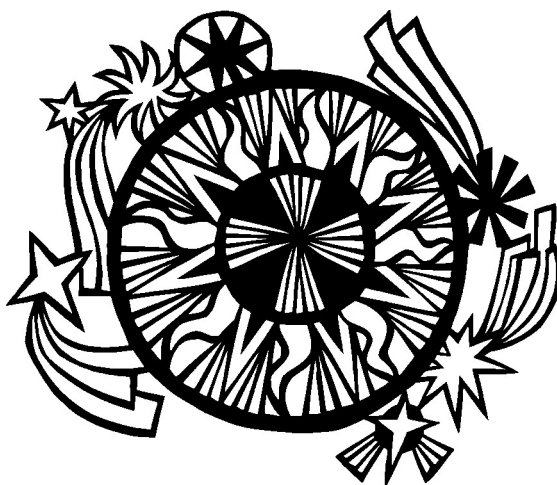
For places experiencing violence and conflict



For justice



For all creation



For everything else for which God calls us to pray

## **Sending Words**

Christ has died.

Go out into the world,  
holding the grief of this night for Jesus  
and for all with whom he suffers.

Go out into the world,  
perceiving more than the suffering.

Go out into the world,  
hearts broken open  
to receive the gifts of God.

**Amen.**

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