

On Friday, Jesus, Peter, James and John went to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed. The disciples were heavy-eyed and Jesus stirred them from sleep more than once. Here in the Garden, we heard the gut-wrenching, but faithful prayer of Jesus: take this cup from me, Father; if it is your will. The authorities arrived. Jesus is led away, charged with blasphemy because he revealed his true identity—he is the Son of God. Peter denied knowing, much less following Jesus. The rooster crowed; Peter has done what he said he could not do. The crowds yelled, “Crucify him!” The mock trial ended, and Jesus’ walk to the cross began. Once there, Jesus breathed his last earthly breath.

SATURDAY: SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Late Friday afternoon, Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus down from the cross. He wrapped it in linen and laid it in a tomb made of stone. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James prepared spices and ointment to anoint the body. The next morning, Pilate ordered a stone placed in front of the tomb and a guard to stand by. The disciples were stunned. Jesus was dead. The last week had been so confusing. On Sunday the crowds had cheered him, and on Friday they killed him. He said he would build a kingdom, but he was dead. Jesus was dead and his body was under the earth. All about the city of Jerusalem, the followers of Jesus quietly and privately mourned his death, and remembered all he had said and done, and gave thanks for how his life had given new hope to their own.

Lord, I praise you because your unfailing love never ends! By your mercies I have been kept from complete destruction. Great is your faithfulness; your mercies begin afresh each day. You are my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in you. You are unfailingly good to those whose hope is in you, to those who seek you. Teach me to wait quietly for your salvation. Help me to submit to your yoke of discipline. Let me sit alone in silence beneath your demands. Lord, speak to me; I am ready to listen. Amen

And hear now, all of the other prayers of my heart, Lord.

GOD’S BLESSING

May Christ Jesus,
who humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death —
even death upon a cross,
bless you and keep you this day and forever.
AMEN.

Jesus is dead; but thanks be to God, he will indeed live again!

Pastor Sherry