



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Alexandria, VA

# Passiontide

## *Lessons & Carols*



A musical depiction of  
Jesus' suffering and death

Good Friday  
April 3, 2026  
7:00PM

## **WHAT IS PASSIONTIDE?**

In the contemporary Christian liturgical year, “Passiontide” is a name for the final two weeks of Lent, beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent and ending on Holy Saturday.

### **THE PERIOD OF PASSIONTIDE**

Prior to the revision of the liturgical calendar in 1969, the Fifth Week of Lent, or the week before Holy Week, was referred to as “Passion Week,” the first day of which was “Passion Sunday.” Thus, Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday were two distinct celebratory Sundays, separated by Passion Week. However, after 1969, the period of Passiontide became synonymous with the following week, or, Holy Week. This is attributed to the fact that, following the revisions, the final Sunday before Easter, formerly known exclusively as Palm Sunday, was renamed “Passion Sunday” (although the names are used interchangeably).

# HOW IS PASSIONTIDE OBSERVED?

Passiontide is collectively observed with great solemnity, especially because this holy period includes the Triduum, the final three days before Easter. Under the older, two-week Passiontide, all statues in the church were veiled in purple on Passion Sunday and remained covered until the Easter Vigil on the night of Holy Saturday. This practice still largely survives, although varying parishes observe it differently. Some parishes veil their statues on Palm Sunday; others, before service on Maundy Thursday; still others remove the statues entirely during this period and return them to the church for Easter Vigil.

## SERVICE HISTORY

Passiontide Lessons & Carols is a uniquely powerful service that guides participants through the events leading up to the death of Jesus Christ: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and finally, the Crucifixion.

The tradition of combining prayer and music to mark significant liturgical moments has origins in the ancient church, and was

solidified in earnest by Eric Milner-White through his Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This, now widely known, Christmastide tradition was first offered in 1918 at King's College, Cambridge. In 2004, David Leahey developed the service you will experience this evening as a Lenten adaptation of Milner-White's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, in the form of "Passiontide Lessons and Carols."

Passiontide Lessons and Carols now stands as a meaningful, liturgical remembrance of the Passion Narrative, blending scripture, reflection, and music in a deeply contemplative format.

# PASSIONTIDE

## LESSONS & CAROLS

GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 3, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M.

*Please turn off all electronic devices throughout tonight's reflection. We gather in silence in respect of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us. Please stay seated throughout tonight's service.*

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN: "O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN"**



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

**AVE VERUM CORPUS**

**WILLIAM BYRD**

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
who having truly suffered, was sacrificed  
on the cross for mankind, whose pierced side  
flowed with water and blood:*

*May it be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet]  
in the trial of death.*

*O sweet Jesus, O pious Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary,  
have mercy on me. Amen.*

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine  
cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

*O dulcis, O Iesu pie, O Iesu, fili Mariae.*

*Miserere mei. Amen*

## FIRST READING

LUKE 22:39-46

Coming out, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

IN A GARDEN MAN BECAME

J. S. BACH

*In a garden man became  
heir of sin, and death, and shame;  
Jesus in a garden wins*

*life, and pardon for our sins;  
through his hour of agony  
praying in Gethsemane.*

*There for us he intercedes;  
there with God the Father pleads;  
willing there for us to drain  
to the dregs the cup of pain,  
that in everlasting day  
he may wipe our tears away.*

**SECOND READING**

**JOHN 18:1-8**

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

**JESU, GRANT ME THIS I PRAY**

**ORLANDO GIBBONS**

*Jesu, grant me this, I pray, Ever in thy heart to stay;  
Let me evermore abide Hidden in thy wounded side.*

*If the flesh, more dangerous still, Tempt my soul to deeds of ill,  
Naught I fear when I abide In thy heart and wounded side.*

*If the evil one prepare, Or the world, a tempting snare,  
I am safe when I abide In thy heart and wounded side.*

*Death will come to me one day; Jesu, cast me not away:  
Dying, let me still abide In thy heart and wounded side.*

### THIRD READING

MATTHEW 26:69-75, 27:1-5

Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty

pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

**WASH ME THOROUGHLY**

**SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY**

*Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.*

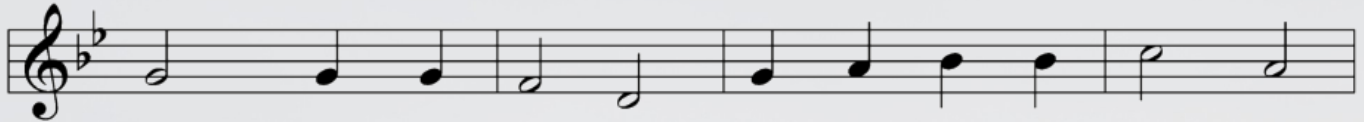
**FOURTH READING**

**MARK 15:1-15**

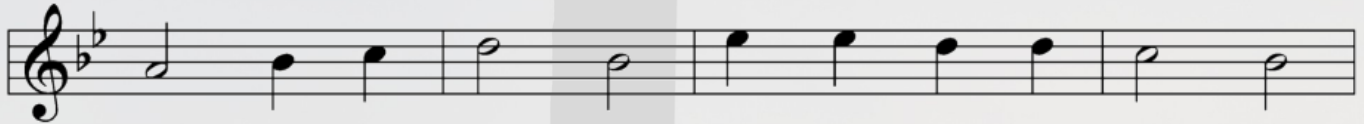
Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate. Then Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered and said to him, "It is as you say." And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them. Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!" Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!" So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.

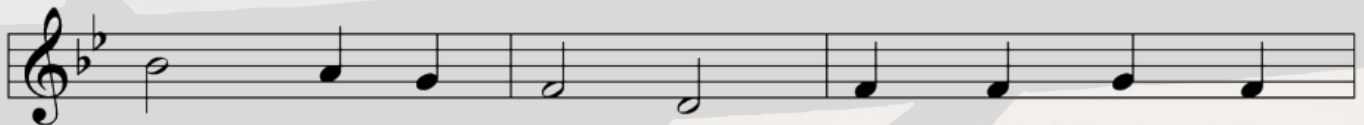
# HYMN: "O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN"



3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;  
6 There was no spot in me by sin un - taint - ed;



It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;  
Sick with sin's poi - son, all my heart had faint - ed;



Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -  
My heav - y guilt to hell had well - nigh



her - it, This I do mer - it.  
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.  
brought me, Such woe it wrought me.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## FIFTH READING

## MATTHEW 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee

before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

## THE PASSION CHORALE

J. S. BACH

*O sacred head, sore wounded,  
defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head surrounded  
with mocking crown of thorn:  
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?  
Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendor  
the hosts of heaven adore!  
In thy most bitter passion  
my heart to share doth cry,  
with thee for my salvation*

*upon the cross to die.*

*Ah, keep my heart thus moved  
to stand thy cross beneath,  
to mourn thee, well-beloved,  
yet thank thee for thy death.*

**SIXTH READING**

**MATTHEW 27:45-50**

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, “This Man is calling for Elijah!” Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. The rest said, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.” And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

*He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.*

*He suffered and was buried.*

**SEVENTH READING****MARK 15:42-46**

Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

**LET MY PRAYER COME UP INTO THY PRESENCE H. PURCELL**

*Let my prayer come up into thy presence as incense.*

*Let the lifting up of my hands be as an evening sacrifice.*

*A period of silence is observed in remembrance of Christ's  
sacrifice for us.*

**COME, SWEET DEATH**

**J. S. BACH**

*Come, sweet death! Come soothing rest.  
Come and lead me homeward.*

**TOLLING BELL**

**SILENT MEDITATION AND REFLECTION**

**Those who desire may come forward to offer a sign of  
reverence, such as touching the cross, kneeling briefly, or  
placing a nail in the cross. You are invited to remain after the  
worship service and spend time in prayer.**

**Please depart in silence.**

## OUR MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Readers	Pastor Meehan & Steve Rempe
Organist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Choir members	Amy Broadbent, Joanna Zorack-Greene, Michaela Ford, Kathryn Dobyns, Daniel Curran, Ryan Connelly, Nate Buttram, and Rob Kurth
Ushers	Greg Miller, Barbara Pate
AV Operators	St, John's AV Team

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*Ave verum corpus - William Byrd (Public Domain)*

*In a garden man became - J. S. Bach (Public Domain)*

*Jesu, grant me this I pray - Orlando Gibbons (Public Domain)*

*Wash me thoroughly - Samuel Sebastian Wesley (Public Domain)*

*The Passion Chorale - J. S. Bach (Public Domain)*

*Crucifixus a 8 - Antonio Lotti (Public Domain)*

*Let my prayer come up into thy presence - H. Purcell (Public Domain)*

*Come, Sweet Death - J. S. Bach (Public Domain)*

**HOLY SATURDAY—APRIL 19**

*Great Vigil of Easter @ 7:30PM*

**EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 20**

*Resurrection of Our Lord @ 8:00AM & 10:30AM*

*Easter breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt between worship services*



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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