On Good Friday, we focus on the Passion of Christ as we remember that God’s love will not allow the evil that we do to one another and our world to go unaddressed. We mark the agony of sin and the evil accumulated through the many ages of the world, all taken on by Jesus for us and for our salvation. Yet the Good Friday liturgy is not oriented around sin, evil, shame, or misery, but around the grateful hope of the redeemed. The cross of Christ’s crucifixion becomes our tree of life, a paradoxical sign of the depth of God’s love for us, a tree that blossoms into the promise of resurrection.
Opening Voluntary

Adagio, from Symphony 3, Op. 28

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Greeting and Call to Worship

Opening Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty Father, as we hear your word tonight, look with mercy on this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture (Virtual)

The Passion According to St. John

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)

Homily

The King’s Thirst

Response Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Were You There?

WERE YOU THERE

Bidding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
Closing Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Sing, My Tongue

Closing Response

Minister: We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
People: for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There is no benediction or closing voluntary on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, reminding us that the worship of these Three Days continues on Easter morning.
Opening Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho-ly Je-sus, how hast thou of-fend-ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt-y? Who brought this up-on thee? A-las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of-fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je-sus, was thine in-car-na-tion, thy mor-tal
5 There-fore, kind Je-sus, since I can-not pay thee, I do a-

judge thee have in hate pre-tend-ed? By foes de-rid-ed,
trea-son, Je-sus, hath un-done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je-sus,
sin-ned, and the Son hath suf-fered; for our a-tone-ment,
sor-row, and thy life's ob-la-tion; thy death of an-guish
dore thee, and will ev-er pray thee; think on thy pit-y

by thine own re-ject-ed, O most af-flict-ed.
I it was de-nied thee; I cru-ci-fied thee.
while we noth-ing heed-ed, God in-ter-ced-ed.
and thy bit-ter pas-sion, for my sal-va-tion.
and thy love un-swerv-ing, not my de-serv-ing.

Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Response Hymn

Were You There?

WERE YOU THERE

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you
2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
3. Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Were you
4. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., Frederick J. Work, 1907, and others
Irregular
Sing, My Tongue

1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; sing the triumph far and wide;
tell aloud the wondrous story of the cross, the Crucified;
tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, vanquished death the day he died.

2. God in mercy saw us fallen, sunk in shame and misery;
felled to death in Eden's garden, where in pride we claimed the tree;
then another tree was chosen, which the world from death would free.

3. Bend your boughs, O tree of glory, your relaxing sinews bend;
for a while the ancient rigor that your birth bestowed, suspend;
and the Lord of heav'nly beauty gently on your arms extend.

4. Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, be for all the noblest tree;
to the eternal Spirit honor now and evermore be done;
symbol of the world's redemption, for your burden makes us free.

5. Unto God be praise and glory; to the Father and the Son,
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