



Red Clay Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 McKennans Church Road
Wilmington DE
(302) 998-0434 / rccpc.org

GOOD FRIDAY / FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025 / 12 PM

Rooted in Love, Lighting the Way

Welcome to worship, welcome to Red Clay, welcome home!

Please visit the welcome cart in the narthex to learn more about our community.

Please silence your cell phones.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION

Today, we walk the way of the cross, remembering the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. This service is a journey through key moments of his Passion, drawn from Scripture, with reflections that invite us to see ourselves in the story. As we walk this path, may we be drawn deeper into the mystery of Christ's love, his obedience to the Father, and his call to follow him. We invite you to remain seated for the service. Each station includes a Scripture reading, a brief reflection from the perspective of the Centurion, a moment of prayer, and a sung response. We encourage you to enter into this time with open hearts, seeking to understand more fully what our Savior has done for us.

HYMN 228

Were You There (vss. 1,2)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Refrain:

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (refrain)

STATION 1: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:22-26

Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' And he said, 'Why? What evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

PRAYER & HYMN 227—**Jesus, Remember Me**

Lord Jesus, though you were sinless, you were condemned for our sake. Help us to accept your grace and extend it to others. Amen.

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

STATION 2: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

SCRIPTURE

John 19:16-17

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of a Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, give us strength to carry the crosses we bear in our lives. Help us to follow you, trusting that you walk beside us. Amen.

STATION 3: JESUS FALLS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that brought us peace, and by his wounds we are healed.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

**Lord, when we are weary, remind us that you, too, carried burdens.
Give us strength to rise and follow you. Amen.**

STATION 4: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

SCRIPTURE John 19:25-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

**Lord, in moments of sorrow, may we find your love. Help us to care for
one another, even in times of suffering. Amen.**

STATION 5: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:26

As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

**Lord, when we are called to carry burdens for others, may we do so
with willing hearts. Let us see your presence in those who suffer.
Amen.**

STATION 6: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:40

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

**Lord, help us to see those in pain and respond with kindness, no
matter the cost. Amen.**

STATION 7: JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

SCRIPTURE Psalm 38:6-8

I utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning. For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

PRAYER

Lord, when we fall under the weight of life's trials, give us the courage to rise again, trusting in your strength. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart; Behold, and See (from MESSIAH)

STATION 8: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:27-28

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, help us listen to your words, even when they challenge us. May we have hearts that weep for the suffering in our world. Amen.

STATION 9: JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, in our weakest moments, remind us that your grace is enough. Lift us up and lead us forward. Amen.

STATION 10: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

SCRIPTURE John 19:23-24

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfill what the scripture says: 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, forgive us for the ways we strip others of their dignity. Teach us to clothe one another in love. Amen.

STATION 11: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, in the face of cruelty, you offered mercy. May we do the same. Amen.

STATION 12: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE Mark 15:37-39

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw how he died, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, in your final breath, you gave us life. Help us to believe. Amen.

STATION 13: JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:50-53

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had yet been laid.

PRAYER & HYMN 227

Lord, in Your final moments, You showed us what true love looks like. Help us to see You in the brokenness around us, and to treat all with the dignity You deserve. Amen.

STATION 14: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15:46-47

And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where He was laid.

PRAYER

Lord, as You were laid in the tomb, we are reminded that even in our darkest moments, there is hope. Help us to trust that death is never the end, and that You will always bring new life. Amen.

HYMN 228

Were You There (vss. 3,4)

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

Refrain: *O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?* (refrain)

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

The congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence.



Thanks to today's worship participants:

Scott McHenry, *Music Ministry*

Lisa Nichols, *Greeter*

Join us for our Easter morning **Resurrection Remembrance with Dove Release** in the Memory Garden at **9 am**. This will be a 20-minute service of reflection and hope, including the reading of names of those who have died in the past year, acoustic guitar music, and a dove release symbolizing resurrection and peace.

Then, celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at **10 am in the Sanctuary** for worship! Special music will include our children's choir, Festival Choir, Hallelujah Chorus, and feature organ, trumpet, and timpani.

Following worship, please join us for fellowship time.

Through a series of in-person messages, devotionals, and worship opportunities, we hope to keep you connected to—and nurtured by—the Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church community. Make sure you're signed up for our Thursday eNews, Facebook, and Instagram accounts. Visit www.rccpc.org.



RED CLAY CREEK PRESBYTERIAN — MINISTERS, STAFF & CHAIRS

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel D. Phillips, *Senior Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Emily Schwenker, *Parish Associate* ❖ Rev. Dr. Philip Jones, *Parish Associate*

Jeffrey Miller, *Director of Music*
Deena Andrews, *Director of Children's Choir*
Lisa Nichols, *Bell Choir Director*

Rachele Gilmore, *Director of Community Life* ❖ Ben Andrews, *Director of Christian Formation*
Jamie Russell, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Barbara Vanderkraats, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*
Judy Lozier, *Nursery Director* ❖ Shelby Beattie, *Sunday School Teacher* ❖ Sofia Martin, *Nursery Support*
Quiara Smith, *Sunday School Support*

Julie Reeder, *Office Coordinator* ❖ Dinyar Vania, *Facilities Manager*
Kelley Norton, *Administrative Assistant* ❖ Anthony M. Condoluci-Smith, *Financial Associate*

Charlie Hannagan, *Technology Support*
A. Leonhard, S. Armstrong, K. Barton, A. Bloom, D. Howarth, J. Schubel, P. Worrell, *Livestream Production*

Nancy James, *Clerk of Session* ❖ Kathy Ciabattoni, *Deacon Moderator*
Bill Ciabattoni, *Belong Chair* ❖ Darlyn Green-Kocher, *Nurture Chair*
Linda Reisor, *Reach Chair* ❖ Lois Galinat, *Rejoice Chair*
Brandon Wallace, *Finance Chair* ❖ John Gast, *Personnel Chair*
Mark Cozine, *Home Chair* ❖ Scott McHenry, *Administration Chair*
Andrew Bloom, *Community Partners* ❖ Marcia Kelly, *Memory Garden Chair*

A NOTE ON THE LOGO

Our church has "**roots**" in the community that date back to 1722. We have been a good neighbor when we were surrounded by farmland up until now when we are surrounded by the suburbs. Our history helps us remember a time when people helped one another out because that was the right thing to do. We hope to be a sign that this kind of community can still exist. We also believe that, in order for that community to exist, we need to stay "rooted" in the Good News that God has chosen to love us - not because of who we are, but because of who God is. We call that grace.

That is where the "**rays**" come in. We hope to extend our love, and the love we know from the graciousness of God, in many ways today. This means engaging in friendships with those that Jesus would have made friends with - those that feel isolated for any number of reasons. We know we will never be perfect at that, but we will try! We are especially aware that churches have long held back from friendship with others based on age, economics, sexuality, race, disability, and the list goes on. We seek to be something different than that. There are so many stories about how Jesus entered into life-affirming friendships with those that others wouldn't. We seek to be like Jesus.

Right there, in the center of it all, is the **cross**. For us, the cross is a "Tree of Life." It represents how God broke into this world to establish a new way of being alive. It symbolizes how God calls us to love with freedom, with recklessness even, if it means connecting the world to the wonder of God's transformative presence.



My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love-less shown that they might love - ly
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior
 sing, re-sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to our
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fering goes, that
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
 at my need his life did spend!
 for his death we thirst and cry.
 he his foes from thence might free.
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

The opening line here could equally well have been a courtier's lament for a secret affair, but it soon becomes a path into a vivid and poignant reflection on Christ's Passion. This 17th-century text is beautifully embraced by its sensitive and lyrical 20th-century tune.

An Upper Room Did Our Lord 202

Prepare



1 An up - per room did our Lord pre - pare for those he
2 A last - ing gift Je - sus gave his own: to share his
3 And af - ter sup - per he washed their feet, for ser - vice,
4 No end there is! We de - part in peace. He loves be -



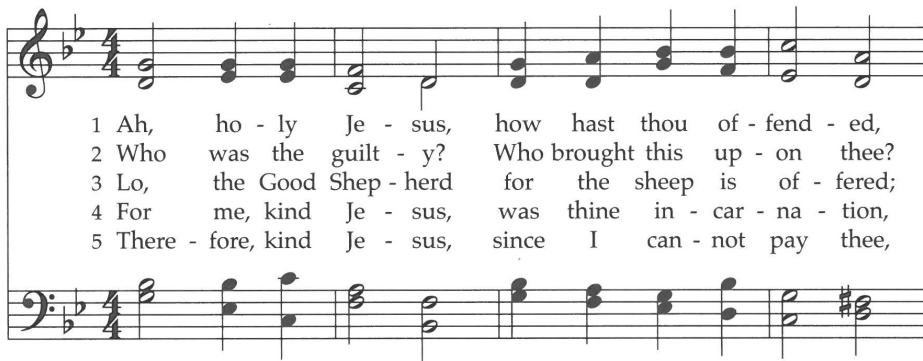
loved un - til the end: and his dis - ci - ples still
bread, his lov - ing cup. What - ev - er bur - dens may
too, is sac - ra - ment. In Christ our joy shall be
yond our ut - ter - most: in ev - ery room in our



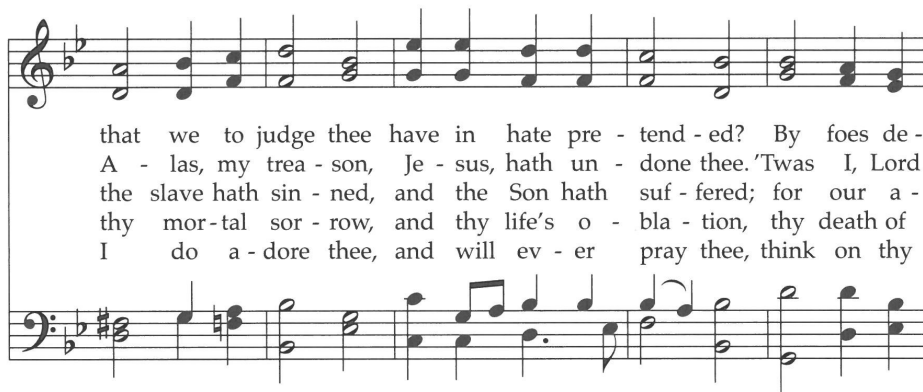
gath - er there to cel - e - brate their ris - en friend.
bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.
made com - plete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.
Fa - ther's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

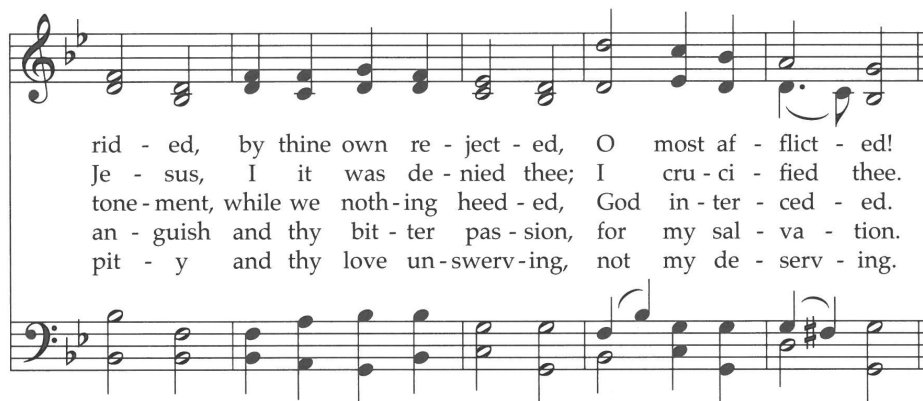
This text brings together the two New Testament traditions regarding Jesus' final evening with his disciples: the Synoptic account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26–29/Mark 14:22–25/Luke 22:14–20) and the Fourth Gospel's report of his washing the disciples' feet (John 13:3–17).



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

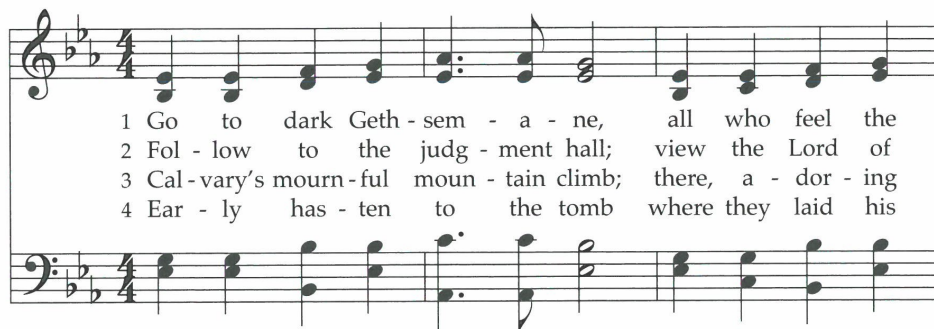


that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

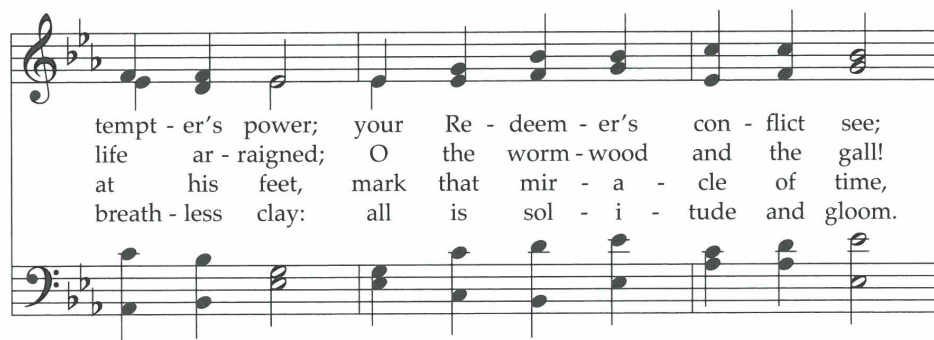


rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not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

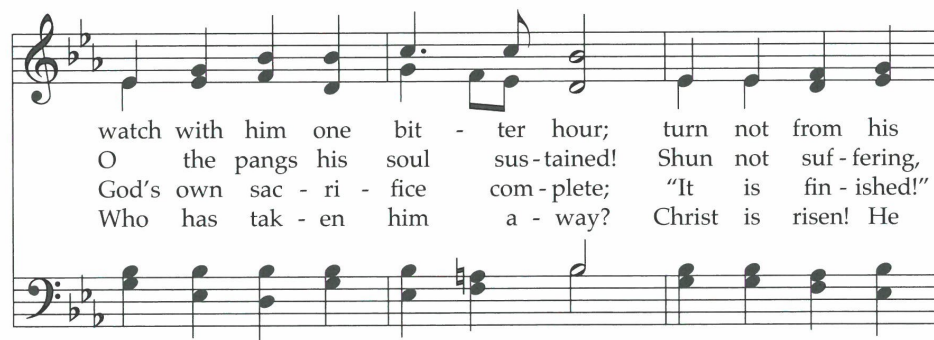
Go to Dark Gethsemane



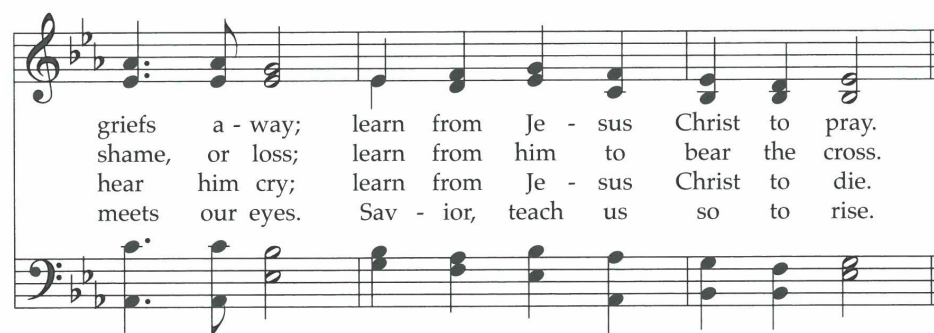
1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
 life ar - raigned; O the worm - wood and the gall!
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221



1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain;
3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

