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Grace Falls Church

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

It is beneficial to take a season of the year to reevaluate, recalibrate, and have the values of our hearts clarified once again. Lent is such a season. Lent is about remembering the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus our Savior—what is sometimes called ‘Jesus’ Passion.’ Lent is about confessing our ongoing battle with sin and joyfully letting go of things in this world that have too much of a hold on us. Lent is about prayer—asking for the help that we desperately need from the only One who is able to give it.

During Lent let us step away from the tyranny of our busy lives, with their seemingly endless demands, and consider the most important thing that has happened to us (being given faith in Jesus), our most important struggle (against sin), and the most wonderful gift that we’ve ever been given (Jesus our Savior). As we do this, may God remove from our hearts and release from our hands the idols that we cling to, but also that strive to hold onto us. May God free us anew this Lenten season to seek him, celebrate him, and follow him in faith.

We carry out this Ash Wednesday service in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## THE READING OF *THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST*

Please give your attention to the reading of the first of six readings from *The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. These readings are drawn from the four Gospels.

### Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane (stanzas 1-3), *on page 4 of this worship guide*

## MESSAGE

### The Hands of the Passion: Hands of Misguided Zeal

Based on John 18:4-11

## A RESPONSIVE LENTEN LITANY\*

Pastor Kevin: Disrupting the garden,  
He stirred up the ground,  
breathing life into the dust:  
God's image became us.

**Everyone: And he walked among us.  
With us.  
Side by side,  
God and I, until I chose the worst and left his side.**

Pastor Kevin: Sin tastes like the first bite of the fruit.  
Biting off more than our world could chew,  
I gnawed on the dark of night,  
swallowing separation,  
digesting a need for salvation.

**Everyone: My mouth is no different than Adam's.  
And my hands are guilty like Eve's.  
I've run like Jonah, lied like David.  
Like Matthew I've been a cheater.  
And I've sunk and denied like Peter.  
I've hated like Paul; I am a product of the fall.**

**And I've hammered nails into Christ's hands like the men  
who watched him complete God's master plan.**

Pastor Kevin: Hollow out my insides  
and may I crave what can only be quenched  
by your love and life.  
Satisfy my sorrow, sing alive my soul.  
My sin is dark like Friday.  
A thin shadow cast from the cross between my eyes,

**Everyone: Where you hung dead is where I came alive.  
You took on death and decay.  
The price you paid,  
The sacrifice you made  
Made a way.**

**Made a way for us to come back to your side.  
You swallowed death, drowning beneath our sea of sins.  
But hope doesn't let the story end.**

Pastor Kevin: Our demise was met with Christ crucified.  
Life and death collide as my steps echo those faithful words:  
"Dust you are and to dust you will return."

**Everyone: But when you return  
these ashes will rise like flames reaching for the night sky.  
And it was your death that gave us new life.  
You rose waking these dead bones alive.  
In you, love cannot fail, fear cannot prevail.**

**"Dust you are and to dust you will return."  
Dust to dust,  
Your life, your resurrection:  
Hope for us.**

Pastor Kevin: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

## **Hymn**

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus, on page 5 of this worship guide*

## **BLESSING**

May God grant you good health and hope in Jesus.

## Go to Dark Gethsemane

104

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 - v'ry'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 pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see.  
 life ar - rained. Oh, 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  
 Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He

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

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.  
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

GETHSEMANE  
 77 77 77

Alternate setting: 385

333

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with your grace  
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with your Word  
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;

That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
 And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
 Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
 Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through your Word.

5 Abide with your protection  
 Among us, Lord, our Strength,  
 Lest world and Satan fell us  
 And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
 Among us with your love;  
 Grant steadfastness and help us  
 To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.  
 Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570-1615, alt.

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN  
 76 76

Alternate setting: 606

## Acknowledgments

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\*Adapted from a poem by Tanner Olson, "Dust to Dust."

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