

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church

April 2, 2026 - Maundy Thursday

Welcome everyone who has joined us for tonight's service.



**PRELUDE - Ivy McLaughlin is playing the Crown Pump Organ in the Narthex, that was built between 1880-1910.
Music selection from Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church
Handbell Choir of Christ Lutheran Church**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - Singing Bells - Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church

OPENING LITANY—written by Joanna Harader

We are Jesus' disciples, following Him even as He moves toward the cross.

Even as He wraps a towel around His waist.

Even as He kneels to wash the filth from the feet of His friends.

We are Jesus' disciples, longing to be faithful even as the night grows dark.

Even as betrayers loom.

Even as the powers that oppose the way of Jesus press in around us.

We are Jesus' disciples, struggling to love others even as Jesus loves us.

We are Jesus' disciples, gathered here to worship God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN-ELW #327 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" (page 8)

PASTORAL GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy God, we need your help to face the challenges of this night. Our intentions are good. We want to share in the heritage of our faith, to remember this sacred story and to celebrate Jesus' last meal with His closest friends. We want to be disciples, yet we also tremble that we are inadequate or unwilling to follow where You would have us go. We gather as your servant people, knowing we are precious in your sight, yet afraid to take the risk of trusting you completely. Lead us this night into deeper commitment.

(moment of silence)

Even among Jesus' closest disciples, not all were clean. On this night of all nights, we confess the ways we disappoint, deny, and even betray Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Our confession of sin is made in the sure knowledge that Jesus is able to wash us in His forgiveness and love.

(moment of silence)

Deliver us, Holy God, from the grip of our fears.

It is costly to follow Jesus. We do not want to risk our lives. We do not want to sacrifice our advantages. There are people we find it difficult to love. There are places we do not want to go. We find it hard to speak of our faith. Yet we love Jesus and want to be faithful disciples. Give us the courage we need to follow Jesus, no matter what it takes. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, having loved His own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end. Jesus knows us completely and loves us unconditionally. Jesus claims us as His own beloved children, forgives us all our sins, and sets us back on our feet again to love and serve all people in His name.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Loving God, who gave all things into the hands of Jesus and inspired Him to wash the feet of His disciples, draw us now into the story as participants, not as mere observers. Help us to recognize one another as sisters and brothers united in the body of Jesus Christ for service in the world. As you love us into wholeness and joy, enable us to love others so all people will know they are your precious children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

DEFOREST JOINT CHOIR ANTHEM - "Remember, Remember Me"

SCRIPTURE READING -Matthew 26:14-56 (Reader's Theater)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW # 708 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show'. The second staff continues with 'us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.' The third staff contains the lyrics 'I Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,'. The fourth staff is also labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for children's choirs.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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This is the good news according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL - John 13:1-17; 31-35

¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #712 - "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" (page 9)

THE OFFERING - *Donations will be evenly distributed between Blessings in a Backpack and the Norski Sharing Shed.*

OFFERTORY HYMN - ELW #359 Where Charity and Love Prevail

**Where charity and love prevail
there God is ever found
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love we thus are bound.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we would offer you nothing less than our best, the first fruits of our labors, a generous portion of all we have received from your hand. On this holy night we are grateful to gather together, to share once more in the new covenant intended for all your people. Inspire us to use these offerings to spread your love in our communities and in our world.

Amen.

THE MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise, Creator of the Universe. You formed the world and called it good. From the beginning of time, you blessed all people with your love and mercy, yet we constantly turned away from you. In love and mercy, you continued to call us back to you through the words of the prophets until you sent Jesus, your only Son, to bring all people back to you.

You are holy, O God of glory, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lived among us, teaching and healing, gathering the outcast and the sinner, welcoming everyone into the way of abundant life. By serving, He taught us how to serve. By loving us fully, He gave the example of how we are to love one another. Even on the night of His betrayal, He loved His own to the end.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and wine, gifts from the earth, and celebrate with thanksgiving the saving love of Jesus Christ. Accept, we pray, this offering of thanksgiving, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 and ever. Amen.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Supper, for all is now ready and all are welcome.

SHARING THE MEAL

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or a Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We do ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you require gluten-free hosts, please say "no gluten" when you approach the person sharing the host.

The center rings of the trays provided contain grape juice for those desiring it. Cups may be returned to the Acolytes' baskets. The Common Cup is also available.

Children may come forward for a blessing, or to receive communion if they have been through instruction, here, or at another church.

If you wish to still receive the individual communion packet (wafer on top and wine/juice on the bottom), please pick one up as you approach the front.

If you would like the sacraments brought to you, please let the usher know. Welcome!

SHARING HYMN



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN - JOINT CHOIR - "Come to the Table"

ELW #496 "One Bread, One Body" (page 10)

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

God of grace, at this table you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation the very love of Jesus poured out for the world. As we leave this feast and follow Jesus into the night, make us a people who remember that His body was given for the broken, His blood was shed for the healing of all, His command is love, and His way is the cross. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

A READING OF PSALM 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

¹²Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.

¹⁷I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.

²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²²I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the
LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

The Ushers will dismiss the congregation. You are invited downstairs for Fellowship after service.

Postlude

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Serving you today in Christ's Love:

Choir Director: Anne Emerson

Organist: Ivy McLaughlin

Musicians: Bill Dickman,
Elaine Jaecke

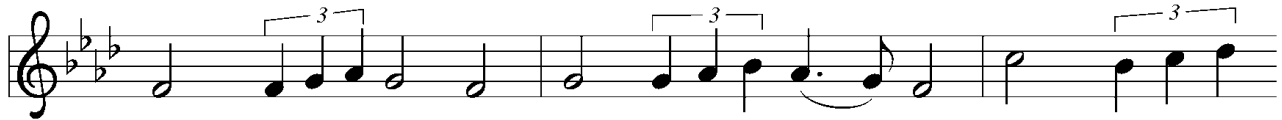
Ushers: Team Paulson
Katarina Arnold Schuett

Acolytes: Marshall Paulson
Mikena Kilbane

Worship Participants

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin
Pastor Carol Baumgartner, Norway Grove Memorial
Lutheran Church
Pastor Sue Beadle, Christ Lutheran Church
Pastor Rick Bursh, Spring Prairie Lutheran Church
Pastor Bryan Lagerstam, Burke Lutheran Church
Dale Molnar, United in Christ Lutheran Church

OPENING HYMN - ELW #327 "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow"



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



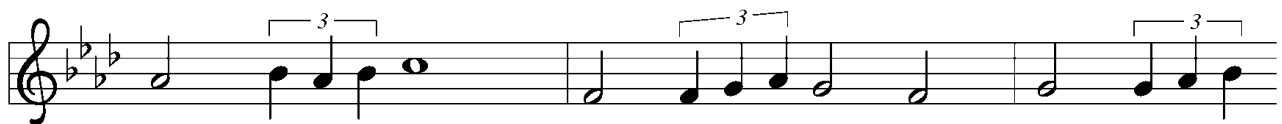
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #712 - "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

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***Thank you to everyone who joined us for tonight's service.
Please join us downstairs after service for a time of fellowship.***

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #496 - "One Bread, One Body"

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,



2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,



3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



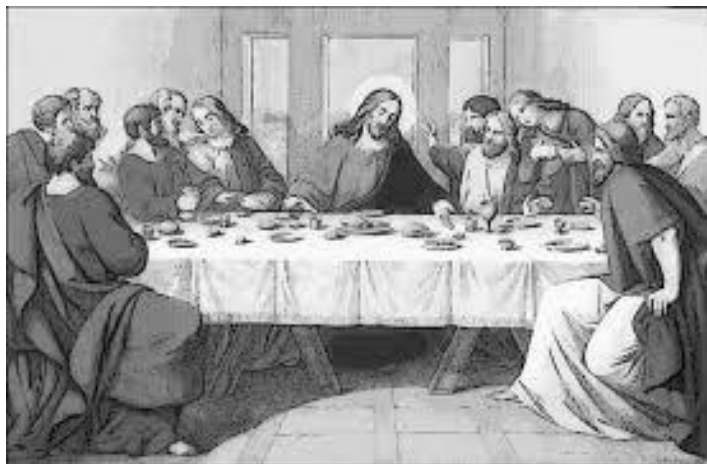
Refrain
wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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A Reader's Theater of Matthew 26: 14-56

Narrator: At that, one of the twelve, Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests.

Judas Iscariot: What will you give me to turn Him over to you?

Narrator: They offered him 30 pieces of silver. And from that moment, he began to watch for a chance to betray Jesus.

Narrator: On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples said to Jesus,

Disciples: Where would You like us to prepare the Passover meal for You?

Jesus: Go into the city, find a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, 'My time is near, and I am going to celebrate Passover at your house with My disciples.'"

Narrator: So the disciples went off, followed Jesus' instructions, and got the Passover meal ready. When evening came, Jesus sat down with the twelve. And they ate their dinner.

Jesus: I tell you this: one of you here will betray Me.

Narrator: The disciples, of course, were horrified.

A Disciple: Not me!

Another Disciple: It's not me, Master, is it?

Jesus: It's the one who shared this dish of food with Me. That is the one who will betray Me. Just as our sacred Scripture has taught, the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to the one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. That man will wish he had never been born.

Narrator: At that, Judas, who was indeed planning to betray Him, said,

Judas Iscariot: It's not me, Master, is it?

Jesus: I believe you've just answered your own question.

Narrator: As they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He offered a blessing over the bread, and then He broke it and gave it to His disciples.

Jesus: Take this and eat; it is My body.

Narrator: And then He took the cup of wine, He made a blessing over it, and He passed it around the table.

Jesus: Take this and drink, all of you: this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. But I tell you: I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until I am with you once more, drinking in the kingdom of My Father.

Narrator: The meal concluded. Together, they all sang a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, and then they took a late evening walk to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus: Scripture says, "I shall strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will scatter." Just so, each of you will stumble tonight, stumble and fall, on account of Me. Afterward I will be raised up. And I will go before you to Galilee.

Peter: Lord, maybe everyone else will desert you tonight, but I will not. I'll be beside You. I won't fail you.

Jesus: If only that were true. In fact, this very night, before the rooster crows in the morning, you will deny Me three times.

Peter: No! I won't deny You. Even if that means I have to die with You!

Narrator: And each of the disciples echoed Peter. At that, Jesus led His disciples to the garden called Gethsemane.

Jesus: I am going over there to pray. You sit here while I'm at prayer.

Narrator: Then He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and He grew sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Jesus: My soul is overwhelmed with grief, to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.

Narrator: He walked a little farther and finally fell down and prayed.

Jesus: Father, this is the last thing I want. If there is any way, please take this bitter cup from Me. Not My will, but Yours be done.

Narrator: When He came back to the disciples, He saw that they were asleep. Peter awoke a little less confident and slightly ashamed.

Jesus (to Peter): So you couldn't keep watch with Me for just one short hour? Now maybe you're learning: the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Watch and pray and take care that you do not come into a time of trial.

Narrator: With that, Jesus returned to pray again.

Jesus: Father, if there is no other way for this cup to pass without My drinking it—then not My will, but Yours be done.

Narrator: Again Jesus returned to His disciples and found them asleep. Their eyes were heavy. So Jesus left them again and returned to prayer, praying the same sentiments with the same words. Again He returned to His disciples.

Jesus: Well, you are still sleeping; are you getting a good long rest? Now the time has come; the Son of Man is just about to be given over to the betrayers and the sinners. Get up; we have to be going. Look, here comes the one who's going to betray Me.

Narrator: There he was, Judas, one of the twelve leading a crowd of people from the chief priests and elders with swords and clubs; the chief priests and the elders were right there, ready to arrest Jesus. And Judas, the one who intended to betray Him, had said to the elders and the chief priests that he would give them a sign.

Judas Iscariot: I'll greet Him with a kiss. And you will know that the one I kiss is the one you should arrest.

Narrator: So at once, he went up to Jesus.

Judas Iscariot: Greetings, Teacher.

Jesus: My friend, do what you have come to do.

Narrator: And at that, the company came and seized Him. One of the men with Jesus grabbed his sword and swung toward the high priest's slave, slicing off his ear.

Jesus: Put your sword back. People who live by the sword die by the sword. Surely you realize that if I called on My Father, He would send 12 legions of messengers to rescue Me. But if I were to do that, I would be thwarting the scriptural story, wouldn't I? And we must allow the story of God's kingdom to unfold. *(To the crowds)* Why did you bring these weapons, these clubs and bats? Did you think I would fight you? That I would try to dodge and escape like a common criminal? You could have arrested Me any day when I was teaching in the temple, but you didn't. This scene has come together as it is supposed to, so that the prophecies in the sacred Scripture could be fulfilled.

Narrator: Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.