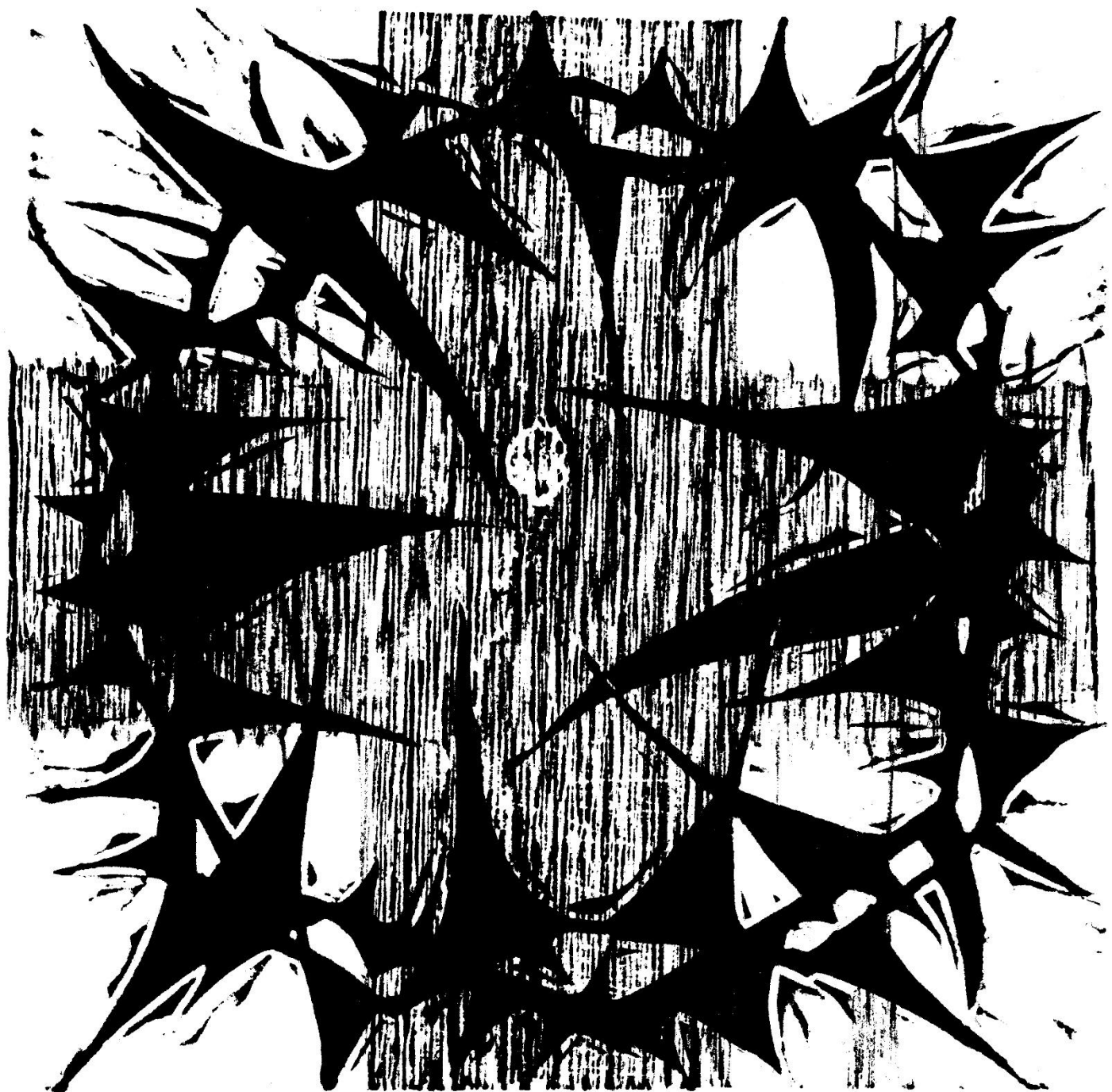


Together to the Cross



Good Friday
April 3, 2026

Prelude

Fantasy in C minor BWV 537
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Jackie Sellin

Jesus and His Disciples in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

***Congregational Song:** “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (*insert*)

The Arrest of Jesus

Matthew 26:47-53

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Solo

Aria "Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben"

Matthäus-Passion (St. Mathew Passion) BWV 244

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sylwia Salmońska, Soprano

Claire Genewein, Traverso

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben, Von einer Sünde weiss er nichts. Dass das ewige Verderben Und die Strafe des Gerichts Nicht auf meiner Seele bliebe.	<i>Out of love my Savior is willing to die, Of any sin he knows nothing So that eternal ruin And the punishment of judgement May not remain upon my soul.</i>
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The Crown of Thorns

Matthew 27:27-31

²⁷ Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

***Congregational Song:** “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (*insert*)

Jesus' Words to His Mother and John

John 19:25-27

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Solo

Aria "Vidit suum dulcem natum"

Stabat Mater P. 77

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Sylwia Salmońska, Soprano

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Vidit suum dulcem natum	<i>She saw her dear Son</i>
moriendo desolatum	<i>dying, forsaken,</i>
dum emisit spiritum.	<i>as He gave up His spirit.</i>

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23:32-43

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

***Congregational Song:** “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended” (*insert*)

The Death of Jesus

John 19:28-30

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Homily

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Offertory

Andante from Flute Sonata in e minor BWV 1034

Johann Sebastian Bach

Claire Genewein, Traverso

Ruth Pfister, Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Nathan Wannemacher

***Congregational Song:** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*insert*)

***Sending and Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Depart in Silence

**Please stand if you are able.*

Today's cover art is a linoleum block print by American artist Elizabeth Steel Halstead. To the Lenten cross of wood the symbol of thorns and thistles is added. In sharp contrast to a splendid, kingly crown, Jesus Christ bore a crown of thorns. As a reminder of the toil mentioned in the Genesis account of the fall, thorns represent the complete suffering, pain, and lowliness Jesus submitted to in placing our sins and God's judgement on himself. The image is an original linoleum block print resulting from a printmaking process in which an image is drawn on a block of wood covered with a thin layer of linoleum, and then hand-carved to expose areas that will be white. Ink is rolled onto the block, covering the surface not cut away. Paper made from the mulberry tree is laid on top and hand rubbed with a Japanese barren or wooden spoon. In transferring the ink to the paper the resulting image is a reflection of the design placed on the block. It first appeared in the book *Visuals for Worship* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006) which is no longer in print.

Thank you to St. Andrew's Anglican Church for sharing their sanctuary, and to Chaplain Rev. Jackie Sellin for helping to lead the service.

Today's offering will go towards this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, Vale Silves Community Centre, which has been serving vulnerable families, children, and especially the elderly for more than 30 years. Founded by Dra Maria Armanda Silva, the Centre provides home-care, food support, children's services, community outreach, and practical assistance to those most in need. St Vincent's Chaplaincy has partnered with the Centre for many years, and today, 50 elderly people receive essential daily care through the Centre, including many who are bedbound. A large food bank supports families three times a week, and the Centre's childcare and meal programme ensures stability for working parents and their children.



Bishop's Appeal

