A SERVICE OF THE WORDFOR USE ON THE WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Preparation

May the grace, healing and forgiveness of the Lord

be with you this Holy Week

and also with you.

O Saviour of the world,  
who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us:  
save us and help us, we humbly pray.

*The presiding minister introduces the service with these or other suitable words*

We gather together this evening to continue our journey with the Lord through this Holy Week of our salvation. The Wednesday in Holy Week sees the gathering gloom of hatred toward our Lord, of deep betrayal in the heart of Judas, and of determination to be rid of the very One who carries our future hope and salvation in his person.

*Silence*

Opening Hymn

Penitence

When we take our ease,   
rather than watch with you.  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

When we bestow a kiss of peace  
Yet nurse enmity in our hearts:  
Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

When we strike at those who hurt us,  
Rather than stretch out our hands to bless:  
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us,  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us,  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The Collect of the Day

Lord God,  
Whose blessed Son our Saviour  
Gave his back to the smiters,  
And did not hide his face from shame:  
Give us grace to endure the sufferings   
of this present time,  
With sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed:  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

The Proclaiming and Receiving of the Word

Psalm 70

You are my help and my deliverer.  
O Lord, do not delay.

O God make speed to save me:  
O Lord, make haste to help me.  
Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion:  
let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.

You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord ,do not delay.

Let those who mock and deride me:  
turn back because of their shame.  
But let all who seek you, rejoice and be glad in you:  
Let those who love your salvation say always: ‘Great is the Lord‘!

You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.

As for me, I am poor and needy:  
come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.

You are my help and my deliverer:

O Lord, do not delay.

Bible Reading

*Canticle* Isaiah 53: 3-6

He was despised and rejected by others:  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
And as one from whom others hide their faces:  
He was despised and we held him of no account.  
Surely he has borne our infirmities:  
And carried our diseases;  
Yet we accounted him stricken;  
Struck down by God and afflicted;  
But he was wounded for our transgressions:  
crushed for our iniquities;  
Upon his was the punishment that made us whole:  
And by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray:  
We have all turned to our own way,  
And the Lord has laid on him  
He iniquity of us all.

[Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
And shall be for ever. Amen.]

Sermon

The Response

*(Hymn, Reflective Solo or Instrumental Music)*

Scriptural Affirmation of Faith  
 1 Peter 2:21b-25

Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example,  
that we should follow in his steps.  
He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.  
when he suffered, he did not threaten,  
but he trusted himself to God, who judges justly.  
Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
By his wounds we have been healed, for we were straying like sheep,  
but have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

The Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn

Blessing

Christ draw you to himself  
and grant that you find in his cross  
a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;

And the blessing…..