



Good Friday readings: Year A - 2026

Prue plays Adagio for Strings

Call to Worship - Liesl

Hope and fear; joy and grief; trust and betrayal; faith and doubt.

Death and new life.

He steps into it.

He invites us to join him there.

Not to solve it, but to make space for it.

And in that space,

to find the beauty and mystery of God's love.

Welcome – Liesl

Acknowledgement of Country – Liesl

We acknowledge that we meet on the lands of the Gadigal and Wangal people, and mourn the death and dispossession that accompanied colonisation, and the ongoing impacts of that.

We honour the wisdom of Elders past and present and pray for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Christ candle

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy away from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week. Today, we are left with just the Christ candle burning.

In our walking we know that we are not alone, for Jesus has walked this road before us, and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

Reading 1: Psalm 22: 1-19, 27-31

Reflection 1: Hope & fear

Song: TIS 10 – The Lord's my Shepherd - Psalm 23

Reading 2: John 18: 1 onwards: Garden scene. Jesus' arrest.

Reflection: Trust and Betrayal

Song: TIS 341 – My song is love unknown. Verses 1, 3, 5.

Reading 3: Peter denies Jesus

Reflection: Joy & Grief

Song: Were you there when they crucified my Lord Verse 1.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Reading 4: Pilate interrogates Jesus

The cross is brought in, nailed together and a purple cloth draped on it

Reading 5: Pilate argues to let Jesus go, Jews say crucify.

Reflection: Faith and Doubt

Song: Were you there when they crucified my Lord verse 2.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

O, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Reading 6: Jesus is crucified

Purple robe is taken off the cross.

Reflection: Life and Death

Prayer:

For those whom I love,

For those whom I struggle to love,

For those who find me difficult:

God in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Song: Were you there when they crucified my Lord Verse 3.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

O, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Reading 7: Jesus dies, his side is pierced.

Christ candle is blown out, 3 knocks on table.

Song: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord* verse 4

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Reading 8: *Jesus is laid in the tomb*

Cross is draped with white. Liesl leads and four men process out with the cross.

Song: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord* verse 5.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Possible repeat of verse 1:

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O, sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Acknowledgements

John readings Paraphrase by Nathan Nettleton of laughingbird.net c2001

[John 18:1 - 19:42](#)

Eggs and Ashes p 171.