

David
Woody

A Service of the Word
Wednesday of Holy Week
March 27, 1991

SENTENCE The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give up his life as a ransom for many.

*HYMN No. 717 "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

*COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ revealed your eternal glory
by taking the form of a servant:
set in our hearts his spirit of service,
that in sharing his humility and in serving one another
we may find our true greatness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

READINGS

Isaiah 50: 4-9
Hebrews 11: 32 - 12: 3

SERMON

"The Ostrich Syndrome"

*THE APOSTLES' CREED No. 881

*THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, glorious and good beyond our understanding, we praise you.

You have given us life that we may pour it out as an offering of love and service.

We have sinned against you by resisting your purpose and wasting the gifts which you have given to us, but you have sent your Son Jesus Christ, who for us became as we are, and met our poverty at his cost.

We thank you that for us he endured betrayal, mockery and death.

You raised him from the dead and gave to him the Name that is above every name; in majesty he ascended into heaven where he intercedes for us as one who knows our weakness.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit whom you have sent to bring us to new life in Christ and the freedom to call you Father.

With the woman who anointed Christ we offer to you our love and our devotion; help us not to count the cost of service nor to betray our high calling in Christ; may we not live for ourselves but for him who died for us, for it is in his name we pray. **AMEN.**

INTERCESSIONS

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ, our servant Lord,
stands before us in the guise of the needy,
and calls to us in the cry of the distressed:
hear us as we pray for our brothers and sisters.

For the hungry, the refugees and the homeless;
For the poor, the diseased and the dying;
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the weak and the vulnerable;
For those who are easily overthrown by the stresses of
life;
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For those facing trials and hardships;
For those for whom life seems too difficult to bear;
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For those who are tempted;
For those whose strength seems almost gone;
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For all agencies of relief and service;
For all who seek, in different ways, to serve Christ;
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Help us, who offer these prayers, to take the sufferings
of others upon ourselves, and so, by your grace, become
the agents of your transforming love: through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN No. 711 "For All the Saints"

*DISMISSAL

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.
AMEN.

POSTLUDE

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Today's service is adapted from Holy Week Services published
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Church of Scotland, The Baptist Union of Great Britain and
Ireland, The United Reformed Church, The Methodist Church,
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Church in Scotland, and The Roman Catholic Church.

Preacher: James M. Efird
Liturgist: Billy Ivins
Lector: Shelly Webb
Musician: David Arcus