

# Celebrating Holy Week & Easter At Home



## 2020

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## Holy Week 2020

Dear People of God,

We have entered a wilderness most of us could not have imagined when we set out on our Lenten journey back in February. Who could have envisioned sheltering at home, trying to hold an invisible enemy at bay? Who could have imagined not being together for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter?

We will spend this year apart, but we will not be alone. Jesus Christ promises never to leave us. In baptism, we were made part of him. We are therefore part of one another, so *we* are never truly apart, either—never truly isolated.

The song *We are the church* composed by Jim Yackel says “The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a PEOPLE!”

And one of the primary places that people have always been with and worshipped God is in their homes. The liturgies of the church, designed for the gathered people of God, were not intended to be the church’s only—or even primary—expressions of worship. Perhaps one of the enduring gifts of this period of exile from our buildings and gatherings will be the recovery of worship at home.

This little booklet is designed to encourage you, whether you live by yourself, or with one other person, or with children, or with members of several generations, to celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday—the holiest week of the Christian year in your home.

You are invited to use the bits that work for you, and tailor them to your needs and circumstances.

While there will be opportunities for us to worship together virtually—some live-streamed and some prerecorded—during Holy Week, these virtual worship services are designed to supplement, not replace, the praying, reflecting, singing, reading and contemplating you will do at home this week.

As this goes to print, Bishop Gutiérrez plans to live stream worship from the Philadelphia Cathedral on Easter Day for the entire diocese.

Know you are in my heart and in my prayers, especially now at this holy time of year.

In faith and hope,  
Pastor Nancy+

# Creating a Sacred Space at Home

Setting aside time and space to be with God is an important part of growing in faith. Perhaps you already have a time of day that you devote to being with the Holy One. Many people choose the beginning or ending of the day for prayer time.

Perhaps you already have a special place in your home devoted to God. Some people have a special place they sit, or a special picture or a cross that helps them to draw near to God. Sometimes meaningful objects, like prayer beads, or candles or books, like a Bible or Prayer Book can help us prepare to be with God. Just seeing these objects and spaces can be a reminder to turn towards God throughout the day.

If you have never thought about having a special time or creating a sacred space in your home, perhaps you'll want to do it this year, since access to the shared sacred spaces at Trinity is restricted.

A sacred space need not be elaborate. Indeed, simplicity is desirable. A small table, a cleared bookshelf, a tray table or window sill will do. Here are some things you might include:

- A cloth of some sort. Purple is the color of Lent. White is always appropriate—a reminder of baptism.
- A candle, or a battery operated candle. Lighting the candle at the beginning and extinguishing it at the end helps mark the time as dedicated to the one who is the Light.
- A small bowl of water, as a reminder of baptism.
- A cross as a symbol of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- A prayer book or a bible
- An object from nature—like a stone or a shell or an acorn. God's first self-revelation is Creation!

It is best if this sacred space can be in a place you are not in and out of all the time, and one that is not always interrupted by the television. It's great if this space can always be available to whoever lives in your home when they want to dedicate some intentional time to being with God.

But not everyone can dedicate a space like this. You may need to make your sacred space a pop-up space—one that you set up and take down again. You could keep a cloth, candle and special object in a small box or a bag and set it up when you are ready to pray.

**Take a picture of yourself in your sacred space and shared it with me!**

# Lectio Divina:

## an approach to praying with scripture

The phrase *lectio divina*, is the Latin for “sacred reading.” It is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures. In sum, *lectio divina* may be said to be a kind of divine picking or choosing of a given sentence, phrase or word through which God wishes to speak right now. It is undertaken not with the intention of gaining information but of using the texts as an aide first to contact the living God and secondly, to sustain that contact.

### **How to Practice *Lectio Divina***

Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray. This booklet provides the gospel reading for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week. You can also do this with readings from any and all of the other liturgies. You can use *lectio divina* alone, or in a small group.

Place yourself in a comfortable position and allow yourself to become silent. Some Christians focus for a few moments on their breathing; others have a beloved "prayer word" or "prayer phrase" they gently recite. For some, the practice known as "centering prayer" makes a good, brief introduction to *lectio divina*. Use whatever method is best for you and allow yourself to enjoy silence for a few moments.

Turn to the text and read it slowly, gently. Savor each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the "still, small voice" of a word or phrase that somehow says, "I am for you today." What fascinates you, bothers you, troubles you, thrills you, haunts you, disturbs you, interests you, or otherwise jumps up to meet you? Where is the Spirit saying “Stop and dig here!”?

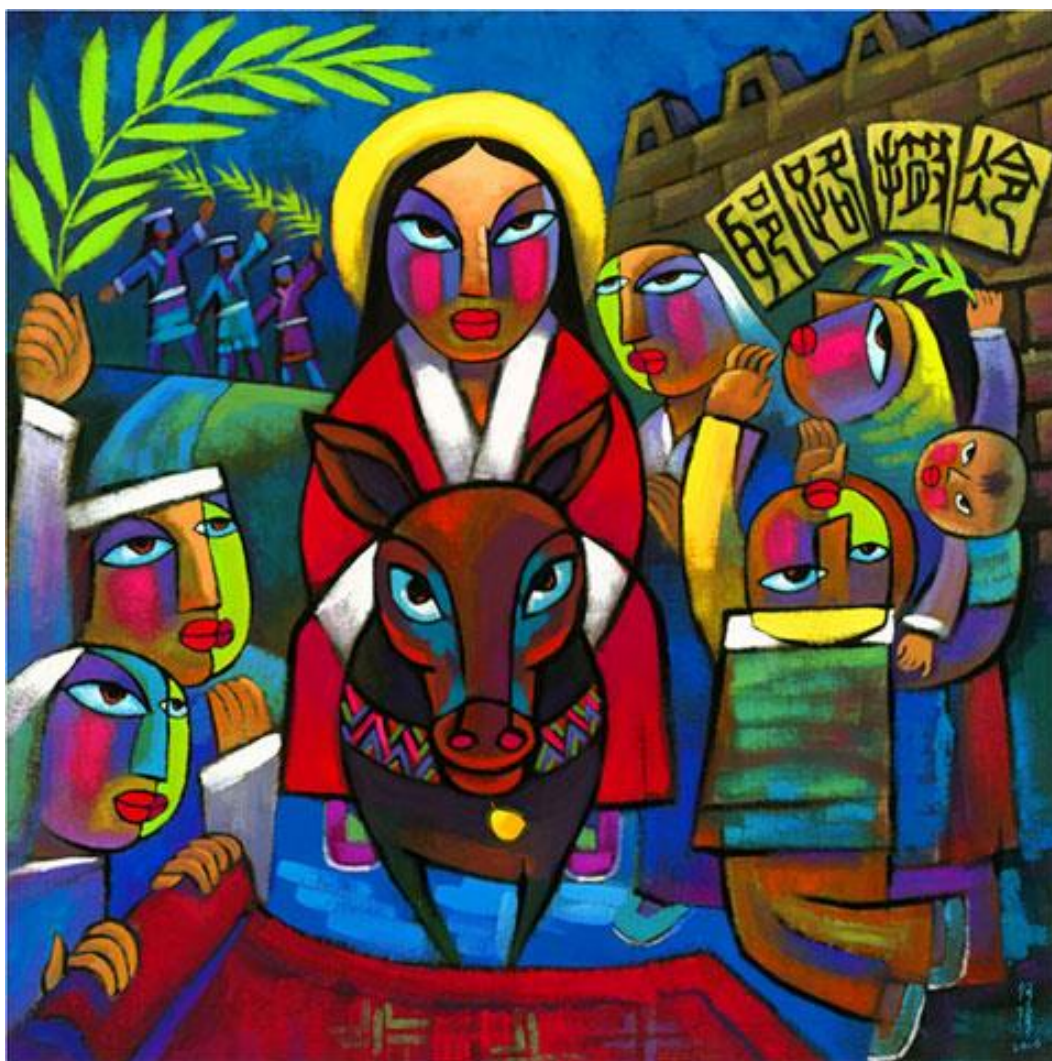
Let the word or phrase sink in, repeating it slowly to yourself. Let it speak within you to your memories, experiences, ideas and concerns.

Give whatever rises up in you during this time to God and listen for God's response. Speak to God as one who you know loves and accepts you. Offer to God whatever has presented itself during your meditation on God's word. Ask God to continue to be with you and speak to you.

Rest in God's embrace. Give thanks that God is with you in both words and silence, in spiritual activity and inner receptivity.

If you wish, end your time with the Lord's Prayer.

# Palm Sunday



He Qi Palm Sunday



# The Liturgy of the Palms

## *Pray:*

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Reflect:** When you think about Holy Week, what events, thoughts, and feelings come to mind? The Collect states that the observance of Holy Week is joyful—all of it, from Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to his death on the cross. Is Holy Week a source of joy for you? Why or why not? Which mighty acts of Jesus do you find most life-giving?*

## *Read:*

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

## *Pray:*

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy

city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.


*Hold up palms or branches from your yard and pray*

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**


Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Sing:*


*Refrain*




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.  
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.  
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
4 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.



**Try this:** Process with your branches around your home (or face in the direction of different rooms and spaces. Pause in each and consider what it would mean for Jesus to have rule over you—your actions and your words and your time—in these spaces.

*Perhaps this is enough for today. Or perhaps you will want to read and reflect on the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and death. We read the passion story ("passio" is Latin for "suffering") on Palm Sunday as a sober reminder that to proclaim Jesus king is to refuse to give anything or anyone else ultimate rule in our lives. Palm Sunday is not simply about cheering for King Jesus—it is also about the cost of being obedient citizens of his kingdom and following him in truth-telling, justice-doing, peace-making, forgiving and loving. Doing those things cost Jesus his life, and they will be costly for us as well. If you do not read the Passion Story now, be sure to spend time with it on Good Friday.*

## **The Passion of our Lord**

### **Pray:**

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Read**

#### **Matthew 26:14- 27:66**

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He

answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest

him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of Power  
and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.” Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus

had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of

this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were

keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.



# Monday in Holy Week



## **John 12:1-11**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

# Tuesday in Holy Week



## **John 12:20-36**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

# Wednesday in Holy Week



## John 13:21-32

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."



# The Great Three Days:

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

The Great Vigil of Easter



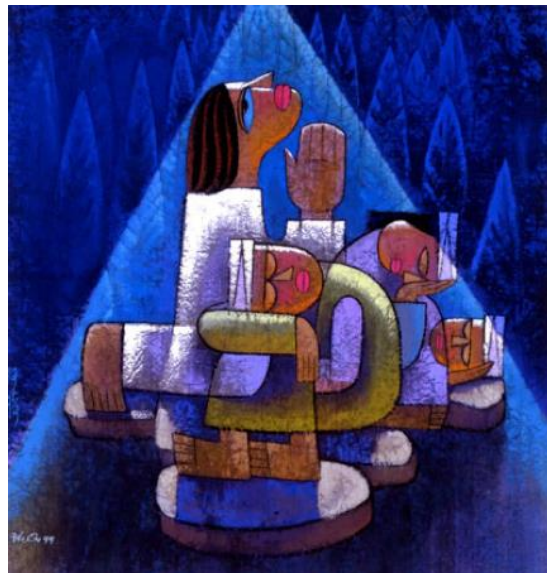
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**The Triduum**—the Great Three Day feast of Easter—which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil can be thought of as an intensive course in what it means to be a Christian. The whole thing is a post-resurrection celebration—an *Easter* liturgy. Our intentional hearing, singing, washing, eating and praying on these days teach us what it means to be a people of the cross *and* resurrection. These services are really all *one* single service, and we are not dismissed until Saturday night, when, raised with Christ, we are sent forth into the world, on fire with the good news of the resurrection.

**Maundy Thursday:** We remember Jesus' command or mandate (in Latin *mandatum*...becomes *Maundy* in English) that we love one another as he has loved us, a command enacted in serving others and made sacramental in washing another's feet.

**Good Friday:** Why do we call this day on which Jesus died on the cross "good"? Perhaps it is the Anglicized (English) version of God's Friday—*Gottes Freitag*. But there is more. We read from the passion according John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. We ought not to mourn on this day, but to give thanks. On the cross, Christ draws the whole world into God's reconciling love. We find strength, hope and salvation in the tree of life.

**The Great Vigil of Easter:** This is *the* night to be immersed in who we are as God's people. Around a candle lit from a new fire, we are filled to the brim with the stories of God's saving acts on our behalf—stories which both refresh and perplex us. Just as Good Friday contains elements of both suffering and triumph, so does the Vigil. This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.



# Maundy Thursday





# Maundy Thursday

*Before you begin the service, set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. If you are with others and will wash one another's feet, the bowl should be large enough to do so. If you are by yourself, and/or prefer to wash hands instead, the bowl can be smaller. Sit with these in silence for a while and when you are ready begin, remembering first that you are forgiven by God.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Ours sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

## *Pray:*

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## *Read:*

### **First Lesson**

### **Exodus 12:1-4, 5-10, 11-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both

human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 116:1, 10-17**

1. I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.
10. How shall I repay God \*  
for all the good things done for me?
11. I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of God.
12. I will fulfill my vows to God \*  
in the presence of all people.
13. Precious in your sight, O God, \*  
is the death of your servants.
14. O God, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
15. I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon your holy Name.
16. I will fulfill my vows to you \*  
in the presence of all your people,
17. In the courts of God's house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia!

### **Second Lesson**

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Lesson**

**John 13: 1-15**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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

Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Reflect:** When we read about and remember the Passover and the Last Supper and the footwashing, we are not simply remembering or reenacting a long ago event. God's word and saving actions are for us, now, in our time. Even when we cannot meet to remember and celebrate the Eucharist together, Jesus' words and actions—which take us three days and nights to recount—come to us here and now. God in Jesus Christ forgives us. Jesus is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, Jesus washes our feet and our lives. And Jesus turns us again and always towards our neighbors. In tonight's words, and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night—Easter comes already, bringing us new and unending life.

*Here you may wish to wash the feet of those who are with you in your home. If you are by yourself, you may wish to wash your hands as you remember Jesus washing his disciples' feet. You might also remember the words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body."*

**Sing:**

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love.  
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.  
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

### *Prayers after the Washing*

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.’

**Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

**Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

### *Prayers for the church and the world*

Father, on this the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples’ feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

**Lord, hear us, and humble us.**

On this night he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your church. **Lord hear us, and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through their message. We pray for the mission of your church. **Lord, hear us, and renew our zeal.**

On this night he commanded them to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and the unloved. **Lord, hear us, and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. **Lord, hear us and give us your peace.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.*

O God, into your love we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death—the events from which all the mercy that fills this night and our lives hereafter flow—you may wish to remove all of the things that adorn your sacred space and put them away until the Easter proclamation at the Great Vigil.***

*Sing:*



*Pray:*

## Psalm 88

O my God, my Savior, \*  
by day and night I cry to you.  
Let my prayer enter into your presence; \*  
incline your ear to my lamentation.  
For I am full of trouble; \*  
my life is at the brink of the grave.  
I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; \*  
I have become like one who has no strength;  
\_\_\_Lost among the dead, \*  
like the slain who lie in the grave,  
Whom you remember no more, \*  
for they are cut off from your hand.  
You have laid me in the depths of the Pit, \*  
in dark places, and in the abyss.  
Your anger weighs upon me heavily, \*  
and all your great waves overwhelm me.  
You have put my friends far from me;  
you have made me to be abhorred by them; \*  
I am in prison and cannot get free.  
My sight has failed me because of trouble; \*  
O God, I have called upon you daily;  
I have stretched out my hands to you.  
Do you work wonders for the dead; \*



will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?  
Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave \*  
or your faithfulness in the land of destruction?  
Will your wonders be known in the dark \*  
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?  
But as for me, O God, I cry to you for help; \*  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.  
My God, why have you rejected me; \*  
why have you hidden your face from me?  
Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death; \*  
I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.  
Your blazing anger has swept over me; \*  
your terrors have destroyed me;  
They surround me all day long like a flood; \*  
they encompass me on every side.  
My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, \*  
and darkness is my only companion.

## **Psalm 68**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.  
For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.  
So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.  
My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.  
For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

*The service will continue tomorrow night.*

# Good Friday



# Good Friday

*Place a cross on your table, or a picture of a cross. Sit with the cross in silence and when you are ready, begin.*

## *Pray:*

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## *Read:*

### **First Lesson**

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
--so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals--  
so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
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 him 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 the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.  
Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, \*  
and are so far from my cry  
and from the words of my distress?  
O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; \*  
by night as well, but I find no rest.  
Yet you are the Holy One, \*  
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.  
Our forebears put their trust in you; \*  
they trusted, and you delivered them.  
They cried out to you and were delivered; \*  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.  
But as for me, I am a worm, and less than human, \*  
scorned by all and despised by the people.  
All who see me laugh me to scorn; \*  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,  
“You trusted in God for deliverance; \*  
let God rescue you, if God delights in you.”  
Yet you, O God, are the one who took me out of the womb \*  
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.  
I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; \*  
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.  
Be not far from me, for trouble is near, \*  
and there is none to help.  
Many young bulls encircle me; \*  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.  
They open wide their jaws at me, \*  
like a ravening and a roaring lion.  
I am poured out like water;  
all my bones are out of joint; \*  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.  
My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth, \*  
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.  
Packs of dogs close me in,  
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; \*  
they pierce my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me; \*  
they divide my garments among them;  
they cast lots for my clothing.  
Be not far away, O God; \*  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.  
Save me from the sword, \*  
my life from the power of the dog.  
Save me from the lion's mouth, \*  
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.  
I will declare your Name to my people; \*  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
May all who fear you, O God, give praise; \*  
may the offspring of Israel stand in awe,  
and all of Jacob's line give glory.  
For you do not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty,  
neither do you hide your face from them, \*  
but when they cry to you, you hear them.  
My praise is of you in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek you shall praise you: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"  
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.  
For yours is the royal power, O God; \*  
you rule over the nations.  
To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before you.  
My soul shall live for you;  
my descendants shall serve you; \*  
they shall be known as yours for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that you have done.

## **Second Reading**

**Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne



of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Passion of our Lord**

**John 18:1-19:42**

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was

cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not

tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Reflect:** Jesus is a root out of dry ground. By his wounds we are healed. These paradoxes of the prophet Isaiah are echoed in the account in John about Jesus' death: he is arrested, yet when he speaks the soldiers fall down; he is tired, yet he is King and Son of God and The Man; he is thirsty and dying, yet he is the source of the Spirit and of water and blood to heal us; finally he is buried, but it is in a garden. All of this means to tell us that God shares our sorrow and need and death and yet transforms it all into life and salvation and hope. More than just a root out of dry ground, Jesus' cross is the great a tree of life in which we all may shelter. You may shelter there today. And all those things in all the world that we pray for today, God holds together in Jesus Christ.

*Our prayers for the world are drawn into Jesus' saving action on the cross: "When I am up from the earth, I will draw the world to me" John 12:32*

**Pray:**

Dear Members of God's family: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

For the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve

For Daniel, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations  
For all who serve the common good  
That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute  
and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation

For those who have lost their faith

For those hardened by sin or indifference

For the contemptuous and the scornful

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and  
persecutors of his disciples

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

*Silence*

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ;



let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

***Turn your focus to the cross and contemplate the mystery of Good Friday: an instrument of shameful death has become the Tree of Life.***

***Pray:***

### **Anthem 1**

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

We glory in your cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

### **Anthem 2**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.  
If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;  
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Anthem 3**

O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us:  
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The service will continue tomorrow night.*

# The Great Vigil of Easter



*Place an unlit candle and a bowl of water on the table. When you are ready, light the candle and begin:*

*Pray:*

The light of Christ rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.  
Thanks be to God.

*Sing:*

**CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT**  
(Easter Vigil text)

Bernadette Farrell

**Verses**



1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings. This is the  
2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er rose from the  
3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness burn to dis -  
4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing. Sing of the  
5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing. All of God's



1. night when heav - en meets earth. This is the night \_\_\_\_\_  
2. grave tri - um - phant and free, leav - ing the tomb of  
3. pel the shad - ows of night. Star of the morn - ing,  
4. pow'r \_\_\_\_\_ strong - er than death. Sing of the love \_\_\_\_\_  
5. peo - ple, lift up your voice. Cry out with joy, \_\_\_\_\_



1. filled with God's glo - ry, prom - ise of our new birth!  
2. e - vil and dark - ness, emp - ty for all to see.  
3. Je - sus our Sav - ior, you are the world's true light!  
4. end - less as heav - en, dawn - ing through - out the earth.  
5. tell out the sto - ry, all of the earth re - joice.

**Refrain**



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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### *Pray:*

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son, free us from our fears, restore us in your image and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### *Read:*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved the people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*Choose any or all of these five Old Testament lessons to read.*

#### **Genesis 1:1-2:4a** *The Story of Creation*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon

the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**



**Reflect:** Especially now we long for an ordered world. In spite of Death and sorrow, the resurrection of Jesus Christ contains the promise of a new creation. Baptized into his death and resurrection, we are made witnesses to God's new creation, and it is very good.

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### **Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13** *The Story of the Great Flood*

The LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind-- every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters

had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-- birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth-- so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:** Despite the many ways we have marred the good creation, God does not give up on us. In baptism we are washed clean, stood on dry ground and sent forth to be signs of God's covenant of love.

+ + +

### **Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom

you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:** We are held captive by many things. We long for freedom from fear and confusion, sin and death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ delivers us from all that seeks to enslave us and brings us through the sea to new life. The water of baptism is the water of our Exodus.

+ + +

### **Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and

bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:** We are the dry bones. The Spirit of God, poured out from Christ's death and resurrection makes us alive together with him, a whole people standing together in new life, even when we feel beyond hope, even when we are separated from each other.

+ + +

### **Jonah 1:1-2:1 Jonah runs away from God**

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

The sailors said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, 'Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?' 'I am a Hebrew,' he replied. 'I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, 'What is this that you have done!' For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

Then they said to him, 'What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?' For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is

because of me that this great storm has come upon you.’ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the LORD, ‘Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.’ So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:** We often run away from our vocations as witnesses to new life, hope and forgiveness in Christ. His resurrection, like Jonah coming out of the fish after three days, and our baptism into that resurrection, renews and restores us to our vocation.

*Now read this:*

### **Matthew 28:1-10 The Empty Tomb**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Reflect:** The women are weeping, and so are we. But do not weep. The Risen Christ calls his greetings to each of us and tells us not to be afraid. And remember the other readings: Jesus rescues us from floods and slavery, he restores our vocation, he makes our dry bones to live in his new creation.



## *Rejoice!*

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

***In remembrance of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, confess the baptismal creed:***

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

And with God's help, I will continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers. I will persevere in resisting evil. Whenever I fall into sin, I will repent and return to the Lord. I will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself. And I will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

***Use the water in the bowl to trace a sign of the cross on your forehead as you remember your baptism.***

## **Pray the PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

On this most holy night, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family.

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe: for their bishops and clergy; for the newly baptized; for the believers who cannot assemble for worship; for faithful endurance during this time of sorrow and distress; and for a deepening sense of your presence among us....

O God, you are our Temple: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation: for the health of seas and rivers and lakes; for the Delaware and the Neshaminy; and for the will to care for your earth...

O God, you are our Rainbow of promise: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world: for an end to war and international turmoil; for concord in our troubled society; for the heads of state, legislators, and local civic leaders, that they enact wise procedures to deal with the coronavirus....

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God for all who are facing the coronavirus: for all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. We pray for physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization. Fill the aching in our hearts with your merciful power....

O God, you are our Everlasting Arms: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for all in need: for those suffering for the faith; for those who are poor, hungry, and homeless; for those who are sick and those awaiting death; and for those we name before you here.....

O God, you are the Healer of our every ill: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts: *A period of silence.*

O God, you are our Heart's Desire: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Receive our thanks for all who died in the faith, and bring us at the final resurrection into your everlasting life, where sorrows will be no more.

O God, our Beginning and our End, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Into your gracious and mighty hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,

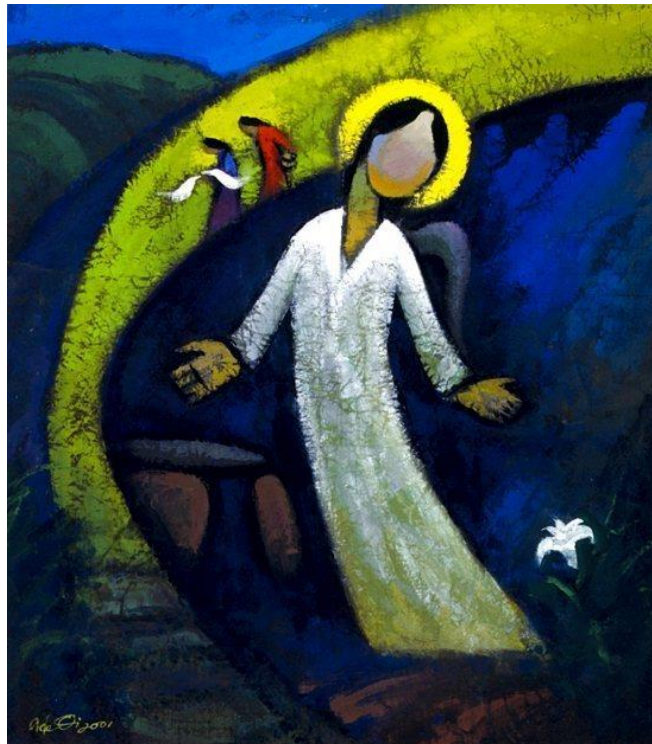
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Pray this prayer and speak these final sentences:*

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



# Easter Day



*If you are able, go outside and ring a bell at 10 am*



# Easter Day

**Sing:** Jesus Christ is ris'n today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## *Rejoice!*

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## *Pray:*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *Read:*

### **First Lesson:**

**Jeremiah 31:1-6**

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;



when Israel sought for rest,  
the LORD appeared to him from far away.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.  
Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall take your tambourines,  
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.  
Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant,  
and shall enjoy the fruit.  
For there shall be a day when sentinels will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
“Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24**

Give thanks to God who is good, \*  
whose mercy endures for ever.  
Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
“God’s mercy endures for ever.”  
God is my strength and my song \*  
and has become my salvation.  
There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the Most High has triumphed; \*  
the right hand of the Most High is exalted;  
the right hand of the Most High has triumphed!”  
I shall not die, but live \*  
and declare the works of God.  
God has punished me sorely, \*  
but did not hand me over to death.  
Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to God.  
“This is the gate of the Holy One; \*

those who are righteous may enter.”  
I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is God’s doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
On this day the Holy One has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Second Reading**

**Colossians 3:1-4**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Lesson:**

**John 20:1-18**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are

you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Reflect:** When have you heard love call your name? When did you first know that God’s love for you was real? What word of hope do you need today? How can you be a word of hope for others?

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People for Eastertide**

Let us pray for the church, the world and one another saying “Awake, O Sleeper,  
rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**”

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with  
courage and grace.

Awake, O Church, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to your world, O God. We pray especially in this time of  
vigil and anxiety surrounding the corona virus:

for the thousands who have contracted the virus

for all who mourn their dead

for all who are quarantined

for those who are stranded away from home

for those who have lost their employment

for those who fear the present and the future

for children who cannot assemble for school

for parents with needs for child care

for physicians, nurses, and home health aides

for hospitals and clinics

for volunteers who are serving their communities

for medical researchers

for the World Health Organization

for adequate and wise governmental policies. .

Awake, O World, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that all might care for and honor the other.

Awake, O People, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change for the suffering, O God, that they might know your saving help. We pray for the dying, that they may know the joy of your Resurrection.

Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness.

Awake, O Saints, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope.

Awake, O Soul, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Awake, O sleeper rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy! Amen, Alleluia! **Alleluia, amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

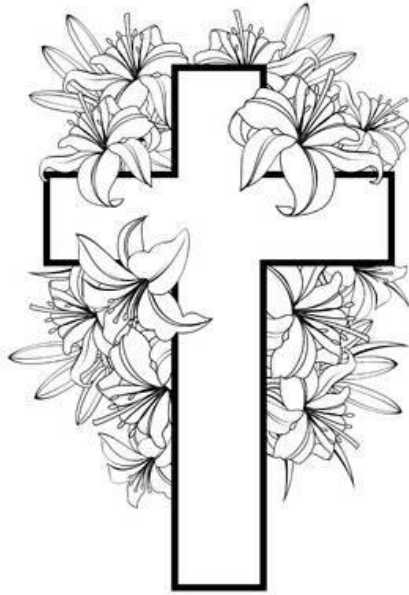
*Pray this prayer and speak these final sentences:*

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, bestow upon us the riches of his blessing.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to your eternal inheritance.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!



LET US  
REJOICE  
AND  
BE GLAD!  
HAPPY EASTER





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