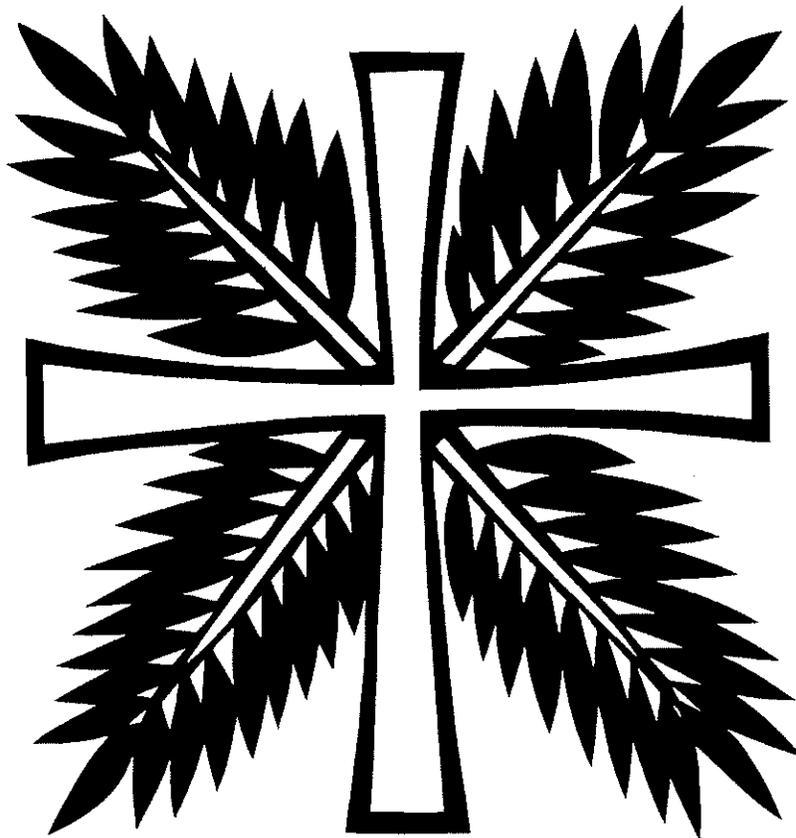


**CHURCH OF THE TRINITY
Coatesville
in the
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**

*Church of the Trinity is a congregation
rooted in the faith and love of Christ,
unified in diversity,
seeking to grow and nourish
the Trinity family and our Coatesville community.*



"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

April 10, 2022

9:30 AM

Palm and Passion Sunday

PRELUDE

The Liturgy of the Palms

OPENING ANTHEM

The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant Let us 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.*

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL READING: Luke 19:28-40

²⁸[Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.' " ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

BLESSING OF THE PALMS:

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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. 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.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALMS

THE PROCESSION

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands.

PROCESSION HYMN *All glory, laud, and honor (Valet will ich dir geben) (H 154)*

Refrain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us 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.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The people sit

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

Silence may follow

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;*
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;*
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;*
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;*
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many
terror all around!*

**as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.**

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;*

I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand;*

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;*

save me in your steadfast love.

THE PASSION GOSPEL: Luke 22:14--23:56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

(A Dramatic Reading of the Passion)

ANTHEM BY CHOIR

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Christ Jesus was obedient unto death on a cross, and exalted by God he continues to plead for all humankind. Let us join him in prayer for all our brothers and sisters, saying: Father, we place our lives in your hands: Lord, hear our prayer.

Establish peace and friendship among all earth's peoples; let violence and enmity give way to concord. We pray especially for Ukraine. Father, we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Renew your church's longing for your reign of justice; may Christians work together to establish what is right in your eyes. Father, we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant a share in Christ's exaltation to all who share his degradation, especially to those whose poverty and helplessness are exploited by the powerful. Father, we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heal the wounds which crime has inflicted on our cities, and help our judges and lawmakers to fashion a society based on trust and respect. Father we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have claim to our intercession, especially for those effected by the coronavirus and those listed here who are near to our hearts, and those we now name silently or out loud (*a period of silence*):

Violet Armstead, Clair Armstrong, Angie Ashe, Molly Baldwin, Marsha Barley, Chrissie Belamarich, Marie Hyacinthe Bribal, Anthony Brogan, Walter Bryant, Carol, Carolyn, Lola Clarke, Violet Cole, Millie Connor, Didi, Dorothy, Andrea Dudley, Charles Emmett, Morris Ferguson, Karen Fisher, Mary Fleck, Cassie Foreman, Kyla Foreman, Jacob Furlong, Malin Gerke, Bianca Giannotti, Ruth Gardiner, Linda Graber, Samantha Griggs, Livi Guthridge, Lillian Hadler, Susan Hanft, Scott Hansberry, Margaret Harrell, Mary Harris, Esther Harvey, Matt Hess, Janice, Danyell Jackson, Jay, Diane Kitson, Jodi Lancaster, Alison Lauren, John and Lindsay, Lisa Kivett, Sye Lamar, Melanie Lifer, Olivia Lyons, Paige McClean, Mia, Mickey, Brian Miller, Adam Nolt, Jessica Nupponen, Meredith Olseski, Phil, Ben

Phillips, Lynn Pullman, Arlene Purnsley, Michael Rayner, Jacob Rockoff, Flora Rutledge, Judy Skoniczin, Shane, Thomas Shanley, Mary Shidlowksi, Erma Sinsabaugh, Barb Smelter, Stephen Smelter, Calvin Smith, Colby Stackhouse, Stephanie, Linda Still, Sue, Becky Swaggart, John Symonds, Dihona Talton and children, Bill Terry, Tom, Tom Wagner, Vicki Romberger, Norman Walters, Cyndi Walters, Isaac Warnick, Sally Warren, Paul Wayne, Mary Nell Weiss, Chanel Wiest, Brendan Willauer, Ruby Williams, Art Wyatt

Father we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who protect and serve, as well as their families: the police, the firefighters, emergency medical personnel and those serving in the military, especially those listed here who are near to our hearts and those we name silently or out loud (*a period of silence*):

Police: Sgt Lori and Jeff Kistle, Marquis Costello

Military: PVT Austin Combs, PO2 Jason Combs, PO3 Andrew Combs, 1CPT Corey Combs, MAJ Alex Deets, Seaman William Dowling, 1st LT Frank Furman, Jr., PFC Shane McWilliams, MGSgt Troy Meacham, PVT Kaleel Pernsley, Specialist Jason Sage, CPL Ryan Sage, CPT Jeremy Smith, LCMDR Michael Sracic MC, MSgt Rewa Price and Capt. Greg Wuestner

Father we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in our parish family who are celebrating birthdays this week: Stacey Heston, Alfred Carey, Jr., Robert Baynard, and Jodi Bakshas. And for those celebrating anniversaries this week: Meg & Dev Devereux and Robert & Sarina Baynard, Jr. Father we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to the sins we have committed; may our repentance lead us to seek forgiveness, and restore us to the Paradise of your presence. Father we place our lives in your hands: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Father, the prayer of Christ brought forgiveness to those who crucified him, and the prayer of the thief brought him a place with Christ at your side. Hear the prayers we now make to you, and sustain your people in their need. We make our prayer through Christ, our crucified Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

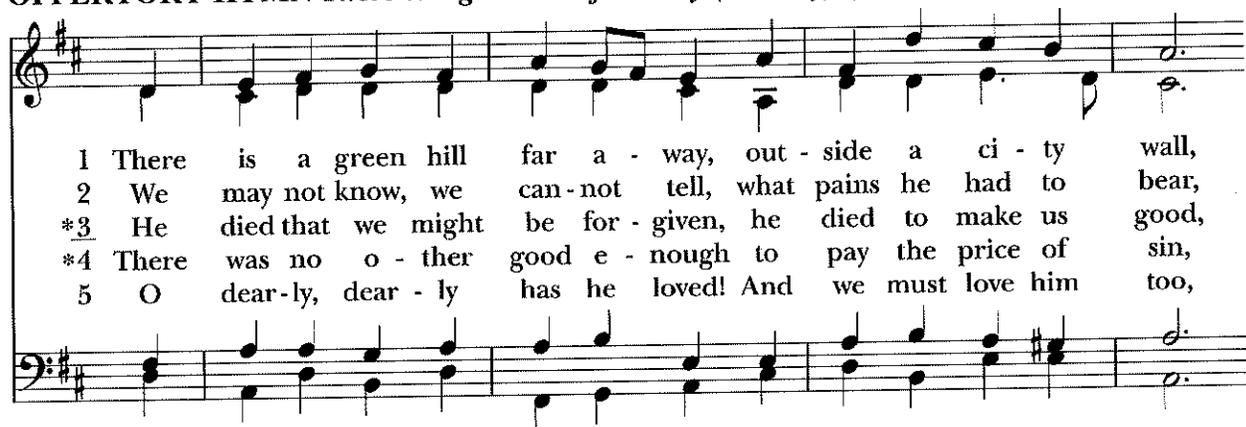
The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

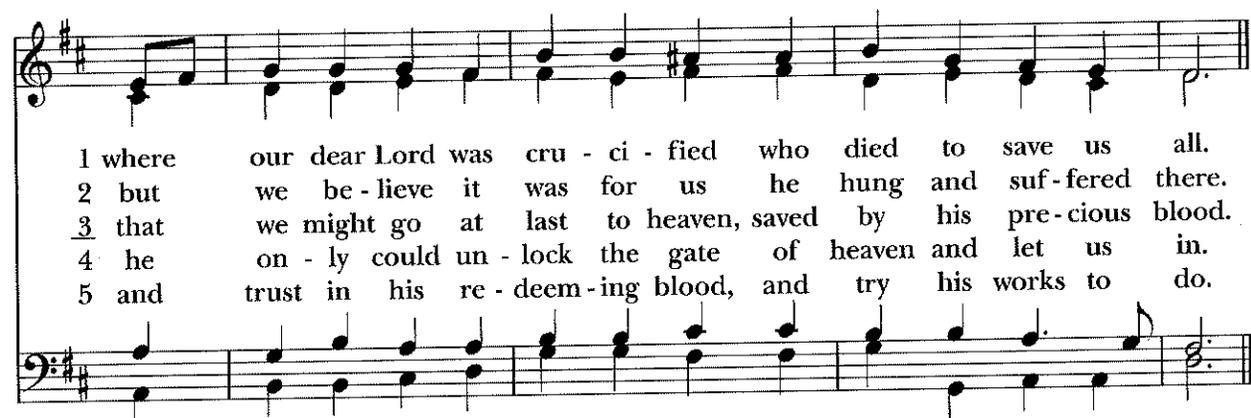
The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN *There is a green hill far away (Horsley) (H 167)*



1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a ci - ty wall,
2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,
*3 He died that we might be for - given, he died to make us good,
*4 There was no o - ther good e - nough to pay the price of sin,
5 O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,



1 where our dear Lord was cru - ci - fied who died to save us all.
2 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.
3 that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his pre - cious blood.
4 he on - ly could un - lock the gate of heaven and let us in.
5 and trust in his re - deem - ing blood, and try his works to do.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

1982 HYMNAL SERVICE MUSIC #S125

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

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

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (LEVAS #264)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

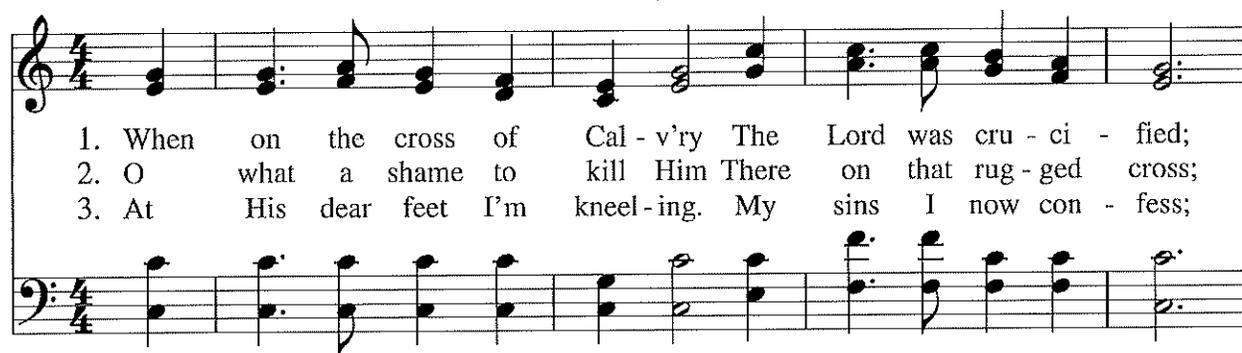
Be known to us Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Be known to us Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

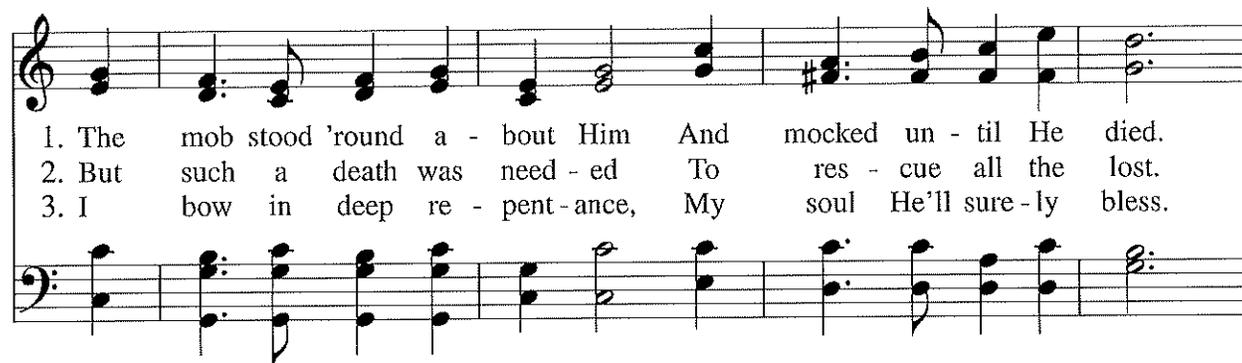
The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

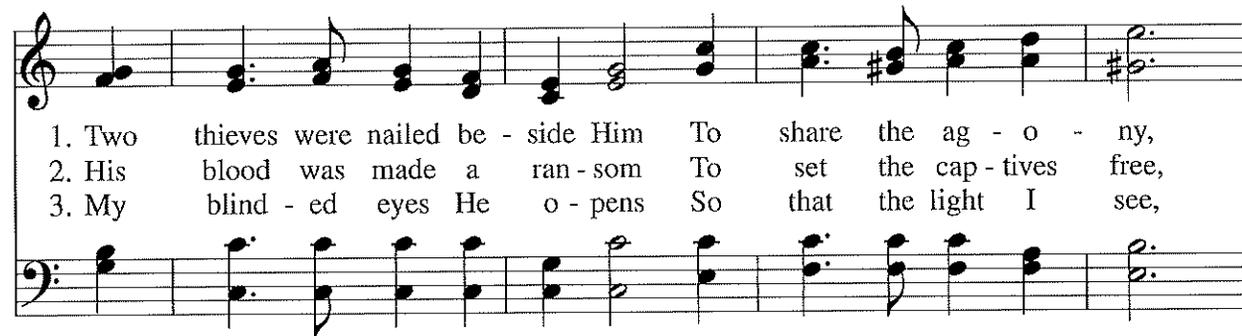
COMMUNION HYMN *He Will Remember Me* (LEVAS 34)



1. When on the cross of Cal - v'ry The Lord was cru - ci - fied;
2. O what a shame to kill Him There on that rug - ged cross;
3. At His dear feet I'm kneel - ing. My sins I now con - fess;



1. The mob stood 'round a - bout Him And mocked un - til He died.
2. But such a death was need - ed To res - cue all the lost.
3. I bow in deep re - pent - ance, My soul He'll sure - ly bless.



1. Two thieves were nailed be - side Him To share the ag - o - ny,
2. His blood was made a ran - som To set the cap - tives free,
3. My blind - ed eyes He o - pens So that the light I see,

1. But one of them cried out to Him, "O Lord, re-mem-ber me."
 2. I know that I'm in-clud-ed, and He will re-mem-ber me.
 3. And when I reach the pearl-y gates, He will re-mem-ber me.

Will_____ the Lord re - mem - ber me, When I am called to
 Will the Lord re - mem - ber me,

go? When I_____ have crossed death's chill - y sea, Will
 When I have crossed death's chill - y sea,

He His love there show?_____ O yes,_____ He heard my
 yes, He heard my

fee - ble cries, From bond - age set me free. And

when I reach the pearl - y gates He will re - mem - ber me.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow (Cross of Jesus) (H 160)*

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row, where the
 2 Here the King of all the a - ges, throned in
 3 O mys - ter - ious con - de - scend - ing! O a -
 4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row, where the

blood of Christ was shed, per - fect Man on
 light ere worlds could be, robed in mor - tal
 ban - don - ment sub - lime! Ve - ry God him -
 blood of Christ was shed, per - fect Man on

thee did suf - fer, per - fect God on thee has bled!
 flesh is dy - ing, cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 self is bear - ing, all the suf - fer - ings of time!
 thee did suf - fer, per - fect God on thee has bled!

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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**Gospel: Luke 22:14–23:56
(or Luke 23:1–49)**

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

NARRATOR: When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.

For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!

NARRATOR: Then the apostles began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among the apostles as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them,

JESUS: The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

NARRATOR: And Peter said to Jesus,

PETER: Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to his apostles,

JESUS: When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLE: No, not a thing.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them,

JESUS: But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, "And he was counted among the lawless"; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLE: Lord, look, here are two swords.

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: It is enough.

NARRATOR: Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

NARRATOR: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

JESUS: Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

NARRATOR: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

JESUS: Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

NARRATOR: While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

JESUS: Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

NARRATOR: When those who were around Jesus saw what was coming, they asked,

DISCIPLE: Lord, should we strike with the sword?

NARRATOR: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

JESUS: No more of this!

NARRATOR: And he touched the slave's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

JESUS: Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

NARRATOR: Then the crowd seized Jesus and led him away. The crowd brought Jesus into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing Peter in the firelight, stared at him and said,

SERVANT 1: This man also was with him.

NARRATOR: But Peter denied it, saying,

PETER: Woman, I do not know him.

NARRATOR: A little later someone else, on seeing Peter, said,

SERVANT 2: You also are one of them.

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: Man, I am not!

NARRATOR: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

SERVANT 3: Surely this man also was with the prisoner; for he is a Galilean.

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

NARRATOR: At that moment, while Peter was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how Jesus had said to him,

JESUS: Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.

NARRATOR: And Peter went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

SOLDIER 1: Prophecy!

SOLDIER 2: Who is it that struck you?

NARRATOR: They kept heaping many other insults on Jesus. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought Jesus to their council. They said,

ELDER 1: If you are the Messiah, tell us.

NARRATOR: Jesus replied,

JESUS: If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

NARRATOR: All of them asked,

ELDER 2: Are you, then, the Son of God?

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them,

JESUS: You say that I am.

NARRATOR: Then they said,

ELDER 3: What further testimony do we need?

ELDER 2: We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

[Luke 23:1-49]

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus saying,

ELDER 1: We found this man perverting our nation,

ELDER 2: forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor,

ELDER 3: and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king,

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked Jesus,

PILATE: Are you the king of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: You say so.

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

ELDER 1: He stirs up the people

ELDER 2: by teaching throughout all Judea,

ELDER 3: from Galilee where he began even to this place.

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, Pilate sent Jesus off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about Jesus and was hoping to see him perform some sign. Herod questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked him; then Herod put an elegant robe on Jesus, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them,

PILATE: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, this man has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

NARRATOR: Then the elders all shouted out together,

ELDER 2: Away with this fellow!

ELDER 3: Release Barabbas for us!

NARRATOR: (Barabbas was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

ELDER 1: Crucify, crucify him!

NARRATOR: A third time Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

NARRATOR: But the Elders kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that Jesus should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. Pilate released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and

murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. (*All stand.*) When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

JESUS: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

ELDER 1: He saved others;

ELDER 2: let him save himself

ELDER 3: if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIER 1: If you are the King of the Jews,

SOLDIER 2: save yourself!

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over Jesus that read, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him saying,

CRIMINAL 2: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

NARRATOR: Jesus replied,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

JESUS: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. (*Silence may be kept.*) When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

CENTURION: Certainly this man was innocent.

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all Jesus' acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. (*Here ends Luke 23:1-49*) Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph took the body down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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Vic Shanley
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Michael Thompson**

A Lenten Practice for This Week – 4/10 to 4/16

As a Lenten prayer practice this week, consider praying for ... yourself.

Some of us learned or were taught that others need our prayers the most, and that praying for ourselves is just a little unseemly. This is the thought I came away with from the earlier part of my life. Others of us don't have this hitch in our past. But still, prayer for ourselves, for our own needs, may be the last and least of our time spent in prayer.

Author Anne Lamott has written a book titled **Help Thanks Wow – Three Essential Prayers**, and I'd like to include some excerpts here. She writes, at the beginning, "... I have come to believe ... that there's something to be said about keeping prayer simple. Help. Thanks. Wow." She adds "Let's not get bogged down on whom or what we pray to. Let's just say prayer is communication from our hearts to the great mystery, or Goodness; ... to the animating energy of love we are sometimes bold enough to believe in; to something unimaginably big, and not us." "Sometimes the first time we pray, we cry out in the deepest desperation, "God help me." "This is a great prayer, as we are then at our absolutely most degraded and isolated, which means ... we are thus possibly teachable."

"We can pray for things ("O Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz" (Joan's note: a great Janis Joplin song)). We can pray for people ("Please heal Martin's cancer." "Please help me not be such an asshole."). We may pray for things that would destroy us; as Teresa of Ávila said, "More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones." We can pray for a shot at having a life in which we are present and awake and paying attention and being kind to ourselves. We can pray, "Hello? Is there anyone there?" We can pray, "Am I too far gone, or can you help me get out of my isolated self-obsession?" We can say anything to God. It's all prayer."

And so, during this Holy Week, as we follow Jesus through the last days of his life, let us pray for our own needs, and may that include prayers that we will be willing to follow him to his cross. "Help."

Deacon Joan