



## **PALM SUNDAY**

### **THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION**

*Today's liturgy begins with a reading from Matthew recounting Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion today and John's version on Good Friday. We gather to remember Christ's offering of Himself for the life of the world, and to be fed by His life-giving mercy. In baptism we have been fused to this story; in Holy Week we walk the road with Jesus once again, the way that brings us to life with Christ.*

#### **✠ GATHERING ✠**

P. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

C. **Hosanna in the highest!**

P. Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, 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 everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. **Amen**

#### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 21.

C. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"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."

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and He sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!"

<sup>10</sup>When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

#### BLESSING OF THE PALMS

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P. We praise and thank You, O God, for the great 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 acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that You bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail Him as our Lord and King and follow Him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

*Written by Theodulph, bishop of Orleans, on Palm Sunday in 821, these words have been sung by Christians for over 1,000 years to proclaim the beginning of Holy Week.*

#### OPENING HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

##### *Refrain*

All glory, laud, and honor to You, Redeemer, King,  
to Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*

2. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before You went.  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before You we present. *Refrain.*

3. To You, before Your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To You, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

4. Their praises You accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great Author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

P. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C. Hosanna in the highest heaven!

*Our worship now turns the page, from celebration with pilgrimage and parade to the contemplation of Christ's suffering and death. Celebration without contemplation is hollow; suffering without acclamation is deadly. By moving through the Palm Procession into Passion Sunday, our worship models the two-sided truth of the salvation that Christ offers the world. Each Sunday we proclaim that in His death is our life, and on this Sunday we enact that mystery as fully as we can.*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Everlasting God, in Your endless love for us, You sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In Your mercy enable us to share in His obedience to Your will and in the glorious victory of His resurrection. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

#### ✠ WORD ✠

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9

*This text, the third of the Servant Songs, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Christians have seen in this ancient Hebrew poem a way to think of Christ, enduring His passion and readying for His death.*

The 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.<sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.<sup>6</sup> I 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.<sup>7</sup> The 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;<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.<sup>9</sup> It 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.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 31:9-16

*It is as if we join with Christ and with all who are suffering as we describe our distress and beg God to rescue us.*

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

<sup>11</sup>I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance;  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>But as for me, I have trusted in You, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.

<sup>15</sup>My times are in Your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Make Your face to shine upon Your servant,  
and in Your lovingkindness save me.”**

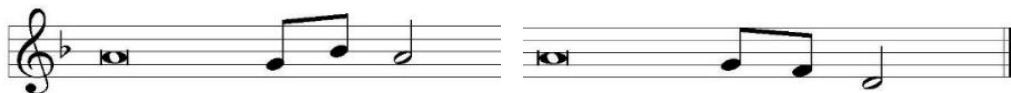
SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

*Considered to be an early Christian creed and summarizing the intent of Passion Sunday, this passage proclaims the whole story of Jesus Christ, Who became human, suffered death on the cross and was exalted by God as our Lord.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (All together)



\*

Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death | on a cross.  
Therefore God also exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above | every name.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 22:14—23:56

*The story of Jesus' crucifixion in Matthew's gospel emphasizes his rejection by the political and religious institutions of the day. But the events surrounding his death show that he overcame the powers of death. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him as "the Son of God."*

<sup>30</sup> After dinner, when they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of Me this night; for it is written,

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

<sup>32</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to Him, “Though all become deserters because of You, I will never desert You.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to Him, “Even though I must die with You, I will not deny You.” And so said all the disciples.

<sup>36</sup> 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.” <sup>37</sup> He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with Me.” <sup>39</sup> 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.” <sup>40</sup> 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? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <sup>42</sup> Again He went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

<sup>47</sup> 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. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest Him.” <sup>49</sup> At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him. <sup>51</sup> 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. <sup>52</sup> The Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” <sup>55</sup> 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. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

<sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took Him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> 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. <sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward <sup>61</sup> and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup> The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against You? <sup>63</sup> 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.” <sup>64</sup> 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.”

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your verdict?” They answered, “He deserves death.” <sup>67</sup> Then they spat in His face and struck Him; and some slapped Him, <sup>68</sup> saying, “Prophecy to us, You Messiah! Who is it that struck You?”

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” <sup>71</sup> 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.” <sup>72</sup> Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” <sup>73</sup> After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter

remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

<sup>27:1</sup>When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about His death. <sup>2</sup>They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” <sup>5</sup>Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>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.” <sup>7</sup>After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. <sup>8</sup>For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup>But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to Him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against You?” <sup>14</sup>But He gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>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?” <sup>18</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed Him over. <sup>19</sup>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.” <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus Who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let Him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup>Then he asked, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let Him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed Him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, <sup>29</sup>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!” <sup>30</sup>They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry His cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified Him, they divided His clothes among themselves by

casting lots;<sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.<sup>37</sup> Over His head they put the charge against Him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup>Then two bandits were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.<sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided Him, shaking their heads<sup>40</sup> 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.”<sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him, saying,<sup>42</sup> “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.”<sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He wants to; for He said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ”<sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with Him also taunted Him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.<sup>46</sup> 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?”<sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”<sup>48</sup> 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.<sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.”<sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed His last.<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.<sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.<sup>53</sup> After His resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.<sup>54</sup> 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!”

<sup>55</sup>Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him.<sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus.<sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.<sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth<sup>60</sup> 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.<sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.<sup>62</sup> The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate<sup>63</sup> and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while He was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’<sup>64</sup> 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.”<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”<sup>66</sup> So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

## SERMON

*Throughout Holy Week we will hear references to the cross as the tree of life. That cross, which the world sees as a method of torture and death, Christians believe bears for the whole world all the fruits of the mythic tree of life. From a palm procession to the reading of the synoptic (Matthew, Mark and Luke) passion, from the cross of death to the tree of life—we proclaim the whole truth on this one Sunday.*

HYMN      *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;  
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;  
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss 'til now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

How art Thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;  
How does that visage languish which one was bright as morn!  
Thy grief and bitter Passion were all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
for this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

† PRAYER †

OFFERING

*If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 22, Porter, 56280) or you may make your offering online at our website ([www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)).*

OFFERTORY

*Create in me...*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a  
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Triune God, in Your boundless compassion You lived among us and suffered death at human hands. Hear and heed our fervent prayers: for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by Your presence in the Word and so be faithful witnesses of Your steadfast love; for pastors and bishops, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry; for all those who are assisting the digital sharing of worship materials; for guidance in keeping this Holy Week in devout prayer and praise; (*A brief silence.*) Holy God,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard; for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected; for villages and towns without access to clean water; (*A brief silence.*) Creating God,

**Hear our prayer.**

For peace through the world, especially in Syria and Afghanistan; for an end to terrorism and religious violence; for all elected leaders, that they see our crisis rightly and make judgments wisely; for wisdom in distributing governmental economic aid; (*A brief silence.*) Mighty God,

**Hear our prayer.**

For our distraught world facing the coronavirus; for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain, and the United States; for those who grieve their dead; for the sick and their families; for those fearful of an unknown future; for the millions of unemployed; for children at home, that they be safe from abuse; for those who have been led to rely on empty remedies; for hospitals, in their desperate need for supplies; for all medical workers struggling to care for the sick and dying; (*A brief silence.*) Compassionate God,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who are facing the criminal justice system; for those falsely accused of crime; for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe; for those who face isolation or execution; for those who face persecution and oppression, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. (*A brief silence.*) Righteous God,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those whose needs we know, for those whose needs are hidden; for those with prior illnesses whose treatments are now postponed; for all who will die today; for those who are homeless; for all who are sick; especially for those we name here: Bea, Merv, Emily, Dick, Angie, Shirley, and Lynette. (*A brief silence.*) Benevolent God,

**Hear our prayer.**

Guard us from betraying You, and grant that in all things we remain faithful to the new covenant poured out for us in the cup of Your salvation. (*A brief silence.*) Loving God,

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the technology by which we stay connected; for having enough food, and for the support of our community of faith. You have destroyed the power of

death. Teach us to die daily to sin, give us grace to trust in Your eternal care of the faithful departed and at the end of time bring us all to the joy of resurrection. (*A brief silence.*) Eternal God, Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C. **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### ✠ SENDING ✠

#### BLESSING

P. The God Who formed you in love, Who renews you through grace, and Who will transform you into glory, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you this day and always.

C. **Amen**

#### SENDING HYMN      *On My Heart*

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
That life's troubles nor its pleasures Ever may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, All my glory and salvation!

#### DISMISSAL

P. Marked with the Cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please join us Thursday evening at 7:00 pm as we begin our celebration of the great festival which is the center point of our faith, the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.*

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Prayers of Intercession by Gail Ramshaw (lightly edited by Pastor Munter)

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### Those who Serve:

**Ministers:** All the People of God

**Presider:** Pastor Ellen Munter

**Musician:** Terry Dybsetter

### How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658

Pastor's House: 507-296-4558

Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000(call or text)

Pastor's email: [pastormunter@gmail.com](mailto:pastormunter@gmail.com)

Bethel email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com)

Bethel web page: [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Offering:** During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at

<http://bit.ly/givebethel>

### THIS WEEK ( April 14<sup>th</sup> - April 20<sup>th</sup> )

April 9 Maundy Thursday worship live on Facebook at 7:00 pm

April 10 Good Friday worship live on Facebook at 7:00 pm

April 12 Easter Sunday worship live on Facebook at 10:00 am



Bea Heise, Merv Anderson, Emily Morton,  
Dick Anderson, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson,  
Shirley Gabbert, Lynette Christie