**Family & Personal Worship**

***Sunday March 28, 2021***

***Palm Sunday***

*If you are alone, please read the Leader part silently and the read together out loud.*

 *If you are in a group have one person read the leader part out loud.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Say together:** Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined**

**and mend what we have torn.**

**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**

**Make us alive in the Spirit**

**to follow in the way of Jesus,**

**as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Leader: Beloved, God’s word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Say Together: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Say together:** Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race 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. **Amen.**



**READINGS**

## **First Reading: Psalm 118**

1O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

3Let the house of Aaron say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

4Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

5Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

6With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?

7The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

8It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals.

9It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

10All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

11They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

12They surrounded me like bees; they blazed like a fire of thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

13I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me.

14The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

15There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

16the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

17I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

18The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

19Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

20This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

28You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

29O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

## **Gospel: Mark 11:1-11**

11When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” 4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**SERMON**

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Say together:** Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. **(A brief silence.)**

Leader: Today, together with the whole church, we begin this holy week by welcoming our Messiah. So, like the people of long ago, let us welcome Jesus and follow him to the cross.

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change (especially), grant relief from natural disasters (especially), and nurture new growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Lord, in your mercy,

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God in highest heaven, how humbly you enter our world to reign: in Christ Jesus
on dusty road, riding a donkey. Help us to pave the way for your eternal realm with our prayer and praise, with our service and love, until the very stones cry out at the coming of your new creation; Lord, in your mercy,

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For what else do the people of God pray? Lord in your mercy,

**Say together:** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

*You may take the bread and wine as give the words of Institution.*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: The Body and Blood of Christ given for you.

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Say together:** **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**

**Our service begins today, it will continue through to Good Friday.**

**Reading: Mark 14:1 - 15:47**

14It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; 2for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

3While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. 4But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? 5For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. 6But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. 7For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. 8She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. 9Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

10Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. 11When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

12On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” 13So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, 14and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 15He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.” 16So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

17When it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” 19They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?” 20He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. 21For 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.”

22While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” 23Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. 24He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

26When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27And Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters; for it is written,

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

28But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 29Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.” 30Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” 31But he said vehemently, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

**BLESSING**

**Say together:** You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,

 in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen**

**DISMISSAL:**

 Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news.

 **Say together: Thanks be to God.**