



# Palm Sunday

APRIL 5, 2020

10AM FAMILY SERVICE ONLINE

Presider: Rev. Sharon Smith

Music: Siiri Rebane

Readers: Mermi Vouse, Sharon Fedorak

Intercessor: Lynn Spence

Film editor: Susana Valente

**Welcome Rev Sharon Smith**

**Invitation to Holy Week - at home and online**

**Children's Palm Procession**

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

*(Hosanna, Hosanna)*

**Hosanna in the Highest**

Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.

*(Hosanna, Hosanna)*

**Hosanna in the Highest**

Blessed is the One who comes In the name of the Lord

*(Hosanna, Hosanna)*

**Hosanna in the Highest**

Dear friends in Christ,  
during Lent we have been preparing  
for the celebration of the suffering, death and  
resurrection of Christ.

On this day Jesus the Christ  
entered the city of Jerusalem.  
although we know his crown is thorns and his  
throne a cross.

The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.

Today we greet him as our King,

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**We will journey through praise,**

**with joy on our lips;**

**we will travel through betrayal and death,**

**cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Jesus leads us through this week,

and we will follow,

for he is the life we long for,

he is the Word who sustains us.

**We wave palm branches in anticipation,**

**we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:

modeling humility for all of us.

**Hosanna! Hosanna!**

**Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.**

**Hosanna in the Highest!**

## Blessing of the Palm Crosses.

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Hanging at the Altar today, are palm crosses, each one bearing the name of a member of the St Catherine's community.

We bless these emblems of our Holy Pilgrimage,  
In the name of :  
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life.  
Amen.



## Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honour

### **Refrain:**

All glory, laud, and honour  
to you, Redeemer King,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

### **Vs 1:**

You are the King of Israel,  
And David's royal Son.  
Now in the Lord's name coming,  
The King and Blessed One (Refrain)

### **Vs 2:**

The company of angels  
are praising you on high,  
and we with all creation  
in chorus make reply. (Refrain)

### **Vs 3:**

The people of the Hebrews  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. (Refrain)

### **Vs 4:**

To you before your passion  
they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high exalted  
our melody we raise.

O Christ,  
you entered the city as a poor man  
not in style but in simplicity.  
May we, hold fast to the gospel of peace and  
justice  
and follow faithfully in your way  
of compassion and solidarity  
with those who are poor and excluded,  
wherever it may lead us.  
Amen.

### Reading 1: Philippians 2: 5-11



*Art by Ford Madox Brown*

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**A Psalm of Celebration** - *prayed in unison*  
(*inspired by Psalm 118 by Ann Siddall*)

Though we have known hardship and pain,  
Though life has not always turned out as we  
had hoped,  
We will stand here and say:  
God's steadfast love endures for ever!

Though life becomes more complex,  
the deepest questions remain unanswered,  
and the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:  
God's steadfast love endures for ever!

And though the pain of the world  
often seems more than we can bear or address,  
we will stand firm in our faith and say:  
God's steadfast love endures for ever!  
Amen

## Hymn: Into Jerusalem Jesus Rode

Into Jerusalem Jesus rode,  
triumphant King acclaimed;  
palm branches spread to honor his way,  
garments laid down as tokens of praise;  
shouts of "Hosanna" surged through the  
throng into Jerusalem.

Within Jerusalem Jesus stood  
masquerade King reviled:  
thorns made a crown (grim satire of truth),  
robe like a wound thrown over his back:  
echoes of "Crucify" filled the air within Jerusalem.

Outside Jerusalem Jesus hung,  
crucified King despised;  
wood formed a cross suspending his life,  
soldiers cast lots to deal out his clothes;  
his lonely cries: "My God"; "It is done"  
outside Jerusalem.



## Gospel Reading 1: Matthew 26: 30 - 44

### Reflection:

Prayers and love are learned in the hour when prayer has become impossible and your heart has turned to stone.

*Thomas Merton*

*Silence for Reflection*

### Prayer:

Christ of the Garden,

**May we watch with you.**

**May we pray with you.**

**May we share your burden of knowing  
what human beings**

**are capable of doing to one another.**

**And may we say with you: God's will be done. Amen**

**Gospel Reading 2: Matthew 26: 45 – 56**

**Reflection:**

God does not require of us the martyrdom of the body, God requires only the martyrdom of the heart and the will.

*John Vianney*

*Silence for Reflection*



**Hymn: The Servant King**

From heav'n You came helpless babe  
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live

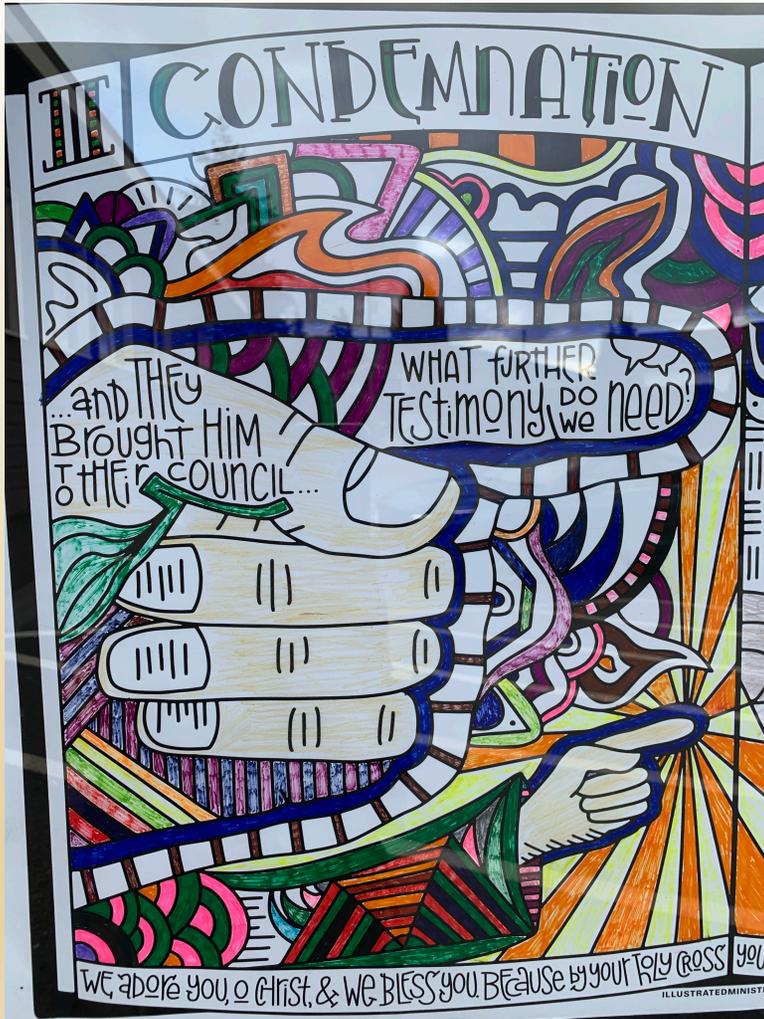
***Refrain:***

This is our God the Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King

There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load He chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
Yet not my will but Yours He said (*Refrain*)

Come see His hands and His feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered (*Refrain*)

So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving (*Refrain*)



**Gospel Reading 3:  
Matthew 26: 57 – 68**

**Reflection:**

The last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

*Victor Frankl*

*Silence for Reflection*

**Prayer:**

Christ of the accused,  
**So many in our unjust society know this experience.  
May you always find us standing with those who need  
your presence.  
And the company of those who seek justice and truth  
for all, Amen**

## **Gospel Reading 4: Matthew 26: 69 – 75**

### **True Story written by Megan McKenna:**

Mark Lowry, 13, is a seventh grader at Cross Lutheran School, in Yorkville, Illinois. He has leukemia. By the end of the week when the school's 15 other seventh and eight grade boys discovered that Mark would undergo chemotherapy and lose his hair, only two of the 16 weren't bald. One was waiting for the weekend for his clipping. The other was Mark, who came from his treatment with a full head of hair.

How long do the boys plan to go hairless as a show of solidarity with their classmate? "Until Mark grows his hair back" was the unanimous response"

*Silence for Reflection*

**Prayer:**

Jesus is on his way toward the Cross.  
His disciples have fled and he is alone,  
alone with our suffering and our pain.  
Alone to face the wrath of the Roman Empire  
and the fury of the crowd.

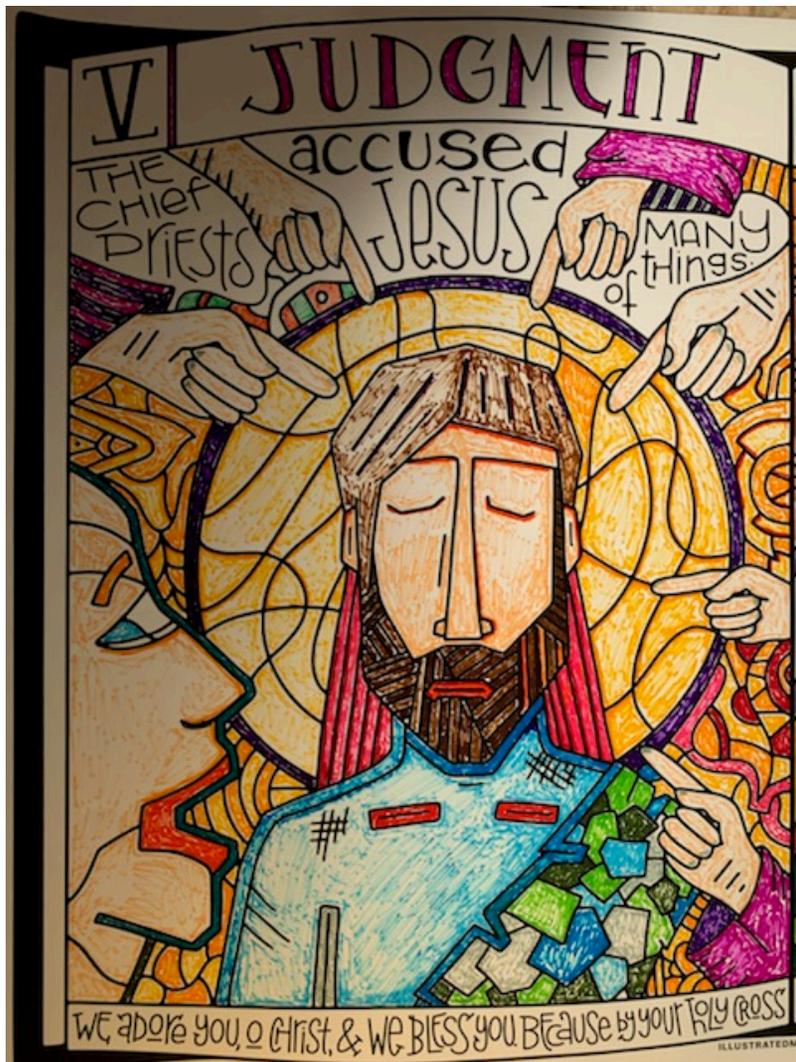
Alone and feeling abandoned by God.  
Yet not alone, for all of humanity walks with  
him.

We stumble and fall as he did.  
We are abused and spat upon.  
We feel despised and rejected –  
by ourselves, by others, by our world.

**God have mercy.**

**Free us from our prisons and  
bring us new life.**

**Amen**



**Gospel Reading 5:**

**Matthew 27: 1-2; 11-26**

*Silence for Reflection*

## Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown,  
my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown  
that they might lovely be.

O who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne  
salvation to bestow,  
but all made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know;  
but O my friend,  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day  
hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!"  
is all their breath,  
and for his death  
they thirst and cry.

**Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown**

Why, what has my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
he gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
themselves displease,  
and 'gainst him rise.

Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.



## Gospel Reading 6: Matthew 27: 27-31

### Reflection:

It is in the darkness, when there is nothing left in us that can please or comfort our minds, when we seem to be useless and worthy of all contempt, when we seem to have failed, when we seem to be destroyed and devoured, it is then that the deep and secret selfishness that is too close to us for us to identify is stripped away from our souls. It is in this darkness that we find liberty. It is in this abandonment that we are made strong. This is the night which empties us and makes us pure.

*Thomas Merton*

*Silence for Reflection*

### Prayer

Let us pray

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me.**

**Amen.**

Gospel Reading 7:  
Matthew 27: 32-44

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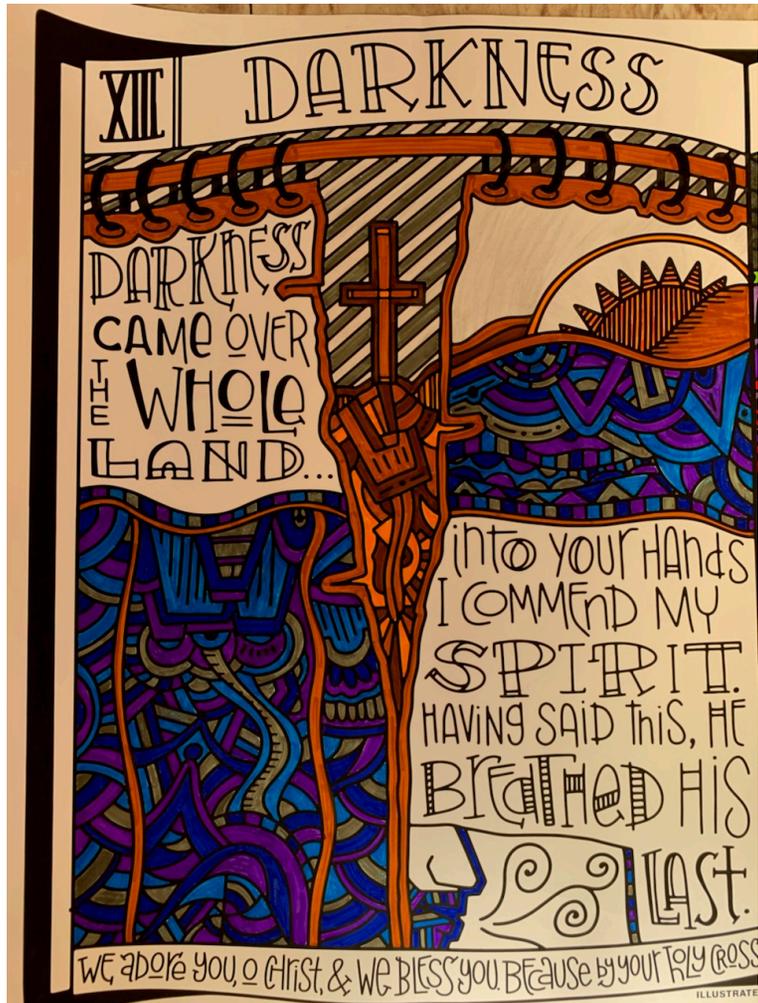


**Hymn: On the Cross**

On the cross, On the cross  
as Jesus died  
God's great love, God's great love  
was realised  
To forgive, To forgive  
our brokenness  
Love amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul  
My life, my all

Gift of love, Gift of love  
There in my place  
As "I forgive", "I forgive"  
tears down your face.  
You take it all, You take it all  
in wondrous grace.  
Love amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul  
My life, my all.

On the cross, On the cross  
Restored with you  
Your faithfulness exemplified:  
what Love can do!  
And I but give, I but give  
my thanks and praise.  
Love amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul  
My life, my all.



**Gospel Reading 8: Matthew 27: 45-54**

**Prayer:**

*The Lord's Prayer (New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Eternal Spirit,  
**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of  
the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
**In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and testing,  
strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power  
that is love,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

**Blessing – Rev Sharon**

**Chant: The Royal Banners Forward Go**

