

*Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday Service, Year A
05 Apr 2020*

Announcements – David

Call to Worship

The darkness deepens, and the Lord grows troubled.
Can we watch with Him?
Can we be the friends at His table who share His bread and wine?
Can we be the companions who journey with Him to the end?

**Come, let us worship, let us watch,
and let us give thanks for such great love. Amen**

The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Collect of the Day

O God, whose only Son Jesus Christ was betrayed and sold by one
he called to be his disciple; have mercy upon our weakness,
and grant us to so diligently watch and pray,
that we may never be overwhelmed by temptation; but that, persevering to the end,
we may come to freedom through his example and to life eternal through his death.

This we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4 – 9 – Daniel

Psalm: Psalm 31: 9 – 16 – Daniel

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

For my life is wasted with grief and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction and my bones are consumed.

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance: when they see me in the street they avoid me.

I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

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.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God.

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

And together we pray:

**Helper of the helpless, comfort of the afflicted,
may your servants who stand in the midst of evil
find strength in the knowledge of your presence
and praise you for the wonders of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen**

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 5 — II Diana

Gospel Reading: Matthew 27: 11 — 54 Martina & Lois

Reflection - Martina

The Shema

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers of the People - David

Confession and Absolution

Lord Jesus,
We are stunned at Your passion and Your commitment toward us.
You did not run from the darkness,
You did not hide from Your accusers,
You did not fade into safe obscurity.

You stepped with determination into the darkness,
Willingly giving Yourself to whip and fist, to wood and nails.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,
for what You were prepared to endure to reconcile us with God.

We praise You, Gracious Lord,
for Your words of forgiveness, and the invitation to paradise.

Forgive us that allow ourselves to become too familiar with this story.
That we take Your suffering too lightly, and receive Your grace too cheaply.

**As we watch with You, while the darkness encroaches,
Let us remember what this journey means,
and count again the cost of love. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Christ's example to us is not through force or coercion—
it is by forgiving our sins by his grace, by calming our spirits with his love
and by inspiring our wills through his love and healing.
Accept his wholehearted love for you by going forth in peace.

Offertory Hymn ?

Offertory Prayer

**Lord Jesus, you who expressed your Divinity
not by taking but by giving, not by demanding but by sacrificing—
bless us now as we follow your example in giving ourselves
in whatever way is needed for the good of your creation.**

Invitation to the Table

Beloved of Christ, people shall be gathered
from all parts of the world to feast at the heavenly banquet of the Lord.
Christ our Paschal Lamb has willingly given himself for us;
therefore, let us celebrate the feast.
Christ invites all who desire relationship with our Creator to this table.
And so we come to the table in faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you have created the heavens and the earth,
giving breath to every living thing.
We thank you for the gifts of creation and for life itself.
We thank you for making us in your own image,
for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us
and for never giving up on us.

Creator God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time,
you came and joined our humanity in the person of Jesus who lived among us.
To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.
In spite of our cruelty and violence, Jesus gave himself up to death;
and rising from the grave, destroyed it, making the whole creation new.

And so we rejoice with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven,
singing the song of your unending praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

When the hour had come for him to be glorified,
he provided for us the gift of himself in the breaking of bread.
May we who receive this (+) bread, his body,
be strengthened in faith and renewed in the covenant until he comes again.

When we drink this (+) cup, O Lord,
we experience anew the presence of Jesus
and remember the life he lives within each of us.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit.
Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, your servant people,
that we may be salt and light and leaven,
showing all people the love you have for your creation.

**Send the power of your Spirit upon us gathered here out of love for you
and upon these gifts of (++) bread and wine.
In remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus, the Christ,
may we truly become his body, to serve all creation.**

Grant that all who share in these gifts may be one body and one spirit,
a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name,
until we feast together with all of your people at your heavenly table.

Through him, with him, and in him, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor be to you, O God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying,
**If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
If we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Prayer after Communion

Creator God, our help and strength,
you satisfy our hunger with this Eucharistic food.
Strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son,
we may follow his example and become food for the world.
For he is Lord now and forever. **Amen**

Doxology

**Glory to God, whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

Blessing

So now we go from this place back into the world,
to proclaim the loving message of God,
in word and action, in challenge and compassion, to all creation.
And we go in the confidence that comes from knowing
that Christ's limitless grace,
God's infinite love,
and the Holy Spirit's relentless companionship,
always encompass us, and are always within us. **Amen.**

Dismissal – Lois