

Readings and Prayers for Sunday April 5, 2020 Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm/Passion Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week as we hear and walk with Jesus and his disciples on his road to the cross. It starts with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with loud shouts of Hosannas. Jesus and his disciples shared a meal before he was arrested and died on the cross to save all humanity.

Processional Gospel (A story of Jesus' entering into the holy city, Jerusalem)
Matthew 21:1-11

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14--27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Question to ponder: Today's readings expose various emotions—enthusiasm, excitement, bitterness, confusion, resentment, anger, jealous, sorrow, and despair. As you read the passion narrative in the Gospel of Matthew which emotions do you notice? Write them down.

Gospel Acclamation: Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. (Phil. 2: 8-9)

Prayer

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection. Help us to remember that your love is the same all the time. We pray for the dying, those who lost job, and the homebound. Give us patience and a sense of humor to go through the days. *Pray for love, peace, comfort and resurrection hope for the family and friends of Bill Jacobs. May your hold them in your loving care.* We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymns

-Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (ELW# 345)

-O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW# 351)

May the peace of Christ be with us. Amen.

Prayer concerns: First responders, those who work in hotels, restaurants, stores, and gas station



Readings and Prayers for Thursday April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday

Maundy comes from a Latin word, *mandatum*, which means “command.” Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples—love one another as Jesus loved. On Maundy Thursday Jesus set an example of love by washing the disciples’ feet and feeding them with life-giving bread and wine. It’s all about love.

Readings and Psalm

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Questions to ponder: In the gospel reading Jesus demonstrated God’s love by washing and feeding. God’s love can be tangible. Will you describe a time when God touched you in a tangible way? Please share your story with your loved one.

Gospel Acclamation; I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. (John 13: 34)

Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all. We lift our worries and daily struggles to you. Walk with us in our frustration, and always remind us you love us no matter what. We give thanks to our families, friends, neighbors, and strangers who share your compassionate heart. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

-Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW# 359)

Prayer Concerns: nursing home residents and staff, prison guards and those who are in correctional facilities and jails



Readings and Prayers for Friday April 10, 2020

Good Friday

On Good Friday we sit in silence. We witness Jesus, the Word of God, walking toward the death on the cross to reconcile all humanity to loving God. On this day, the very God died. Through the death of Jesus, God in human form, life emerges.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 52:13--53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1--19:42

Question to ponder: What does the death of Jesus on the cross mean to you today?

Gospel Acclamation: Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

Prayer

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him. We pray for the lost and grieving, those who suffer from mental illness, the wounded ones, and those who are caring for the dying. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

-Where You There (ELW# 353)

Prayer Concerns: cancer patients and their family, people who are living with Parkinson's and their caregivers



Readings and Prayers for Saturday April 11, 2020

Vigil of Easter

Easter Vigil is a special night as we read God's salvation stories from both Old and New Testaments. God's people have gone through ordeals and experienced suffering; yet God was faithful. God never gives up. God loves us unconditionally and gives us new life.

Readings

Genesis 1:1—2:4a *Creation*

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 *Deliverance at the Red Sea*

Isaiah 55:1-11 *Salvation freely offered to all*

Daniel 3:1-29 *Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

Romans 6: 3-11 *Dying and rising with Christ*

John 20: 1-18 *Seeing the risen Christ*

Questions to ponder: Are there any stories in the readings intersecting with your faith stories? How so? Re-read the story. Give thanks to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*. Let us sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously; our strength and our might, who has become our salvation. *Alleluia*. (Exod. 15:1-2)

Prayer

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light. We pray for the first responders, healthcare workers, those who feed others, researchers, lab workers, and those who bring joy to us. We thank you for the gift of creativity and new life in Jesus. We pray this and all the prayers in our hearts through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

-We Know That Christ Is Raised (ELW# 449)

Prayer Concerns: artists, dancers, musicians, and chefs

