

# Church of the Redeemer

Lent 2014

## An Order for Daily Prayer

Holy Week



## Introduction

Lent offers us an opportunity to be more intentional in our prayer-life – to enter more deeply into the conversation with God about who we are as God’s beloved. It is a time to listen to what God might be calling us to do and be and in turn to ask God to be with us as we seek out ways to love and serve God. It is a time to step forward – into something new or renewed. It is a time to step onto the path that God invites each of us to follow. The days of Lent will sometimes bring comfort and sometimes bring challenge as we seek to listen attentively. Perhaps it is helpful to remember that as we step into these days we have as our companions each other and we have Jesus. We can support and uphold one another and we can be supported and upheld by the one in whose steps we walk.

The order is designed such that you may enter into a time of prayer either in the morning or in the evening – whenever it fits the pattern of your day most easily. Please know that as you make time to pause and be with God, others in the parish are also praying alongside you. That is the wonderful thing about this discipline – while we may do this alone, we also do it in community.

You are welcome to keep this booklet. It is also available on our website. In addition we will post a brief excerpt from the daily prayers with an image on our Facebook page. We hope you’ll join us there, too.

It is our hope that this discipline becomes part of your journey from ashes to the cross to the empty tomb. In peace, let us pray.

## Palm Sunday through the days of Holy Week

April 13 to 19

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer to God our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God.*

*We begin by saying*

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

Galatians 6.14

*We continue with the Psalm*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,

"His mercy endures for ever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord;

he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me

and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,

and it is marvellous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted;

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosannah, Lord, hosannah!

Lord, send us now success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;

form a procession with branches up to the  
horns of the altar.

”You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.”

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures for ever.

Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29

*We continue with the reading and the reflection beginning on page 8. In silence we ask what the reading has to say to us this day. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God? When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle below.*

### ***The Canticle ~ The Song of Christ’s Glory***

Christ Jesus was in the form of God,

but he did not cling to equality with God.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,

and was born in our human likeness.

Being found in human form he humbled himself,

and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him,  
and bestowed on him the name above every name,  
That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2.5-11*

### **The Intercessions**

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God concluding with the prayer for the day, and the Lord's prayer*

We offer prayers for the world  
We offer prayers for the church, for all in leadership  
We offer prayers for our community  
We offer prayers for family and friends  
We offers prayers of thanksgiving

### **Prayer for the Day**

#### **Palm Sunday**

Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all the human race, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to take our flesh, and to suffer a cruel death upon the cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Monday in Holy Week**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son ascended not in triumph but first he bore our sorrows, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***Tuesday in Holy Week***

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may share in the unspeakable love which caused him to endure such agony; through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***Wednesday in Holy Week***

O Lord God, whose Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spat upon: Grant your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Maundy Thursday***

O God, whose blessed Son, in a wonderful sacrament, has left to us a memorial of his precious death and glorious resurrection: Grant us so to venerate the holy mysteries of his Body and Blood, that we may ever know within ourselves the fruit of his redemption; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***Good Friday***

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on the whole company of your people, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***Saturday—Easter Eve***

O God, the creator of heaven and earth, grant that as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*We continue*

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 for ever.

**OR**

God, who cares for us,  
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,  
Let justice, kindness and love shine in our world.  
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.  
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.  
Forgive us our wrongdoing  
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.  
Protect us from pride and from despair  
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.  
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,  
while worlds come and go. Amen.

*We conclude our time of prayer*

This is love, not that we loved God,  
but that he loved us and sent his Son.  
He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
that we might live through him.  
If God loves us so much  
we ought to love one another.  
If we love one another  
God lives in us.

## The Readings and Reflections

### Palm Sunday

#### **Reading**

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

"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."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 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!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:1-11



**Focus**

Go!

Find a donkey and a colt and bring it.  
The excitement mounts.

Go!

The disciples go. They find. They bring.  
The excitement mounts.

Go!

Crowds gather. Cloaks spread. Branches tossed on the road.  
We are the crowd.

Go!

## Monday in Holy Week

### Reading

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

*John 12.1-8*

### Focus

Come.

Gather at the table.

Lazarus, Martha and Mary are with us.

Dinner is served.

Shadow begins to draw close.

Do you feel it?

Mary knows.

Anoint.

## Tuesday in Holy Week

### Reading

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

*John 12.20-26*

### Focus

See.

“We wish to see Jesus.”

Confusion? They wish to see Jesus?

There it is. The shadow closer yet.

Do you feel it?

They know.

Serve.

## Wednesday in Holy Week

### **Reading**

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, ‘Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, ‘Lord, who is it?’ Jesus answered, ‘It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.’ So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, ‘Do quickly what you are going to do.’ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, ‘Buy what we need for the festival’; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

*John 13.21-30*

### **Focus**

Give.

The time is drawing closer.

There is darkness in the corners of the room.

Bread is broken. Dipped. Shared.

Judas knows.

Do.

## Maundy Thursday

### Reading

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

*John 13.3-17*

### Focus

Pour.

Jesus gets up from the table. Takes a basin of water. Washes feet.

This he must do.

For us.

Jesus knows.

Blessed.

## Good Friday

### **Reading**

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

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

*Matthew 27.45-56*

### **Focus**

It is finished.

## Saturday—Easter Eve

### **Reading**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

*Matthew 28.1-10*

### **Focus**

Open

The stone is rolled away.

The Light bursts forth.

We know.

Tell!

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