

Holy Week Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday

Introduction

We invite you to enter into a time of intentional prayer during these 40 days of Lent and through Holy Week. 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 other times bring challenge as we seek to listen attentively. It is helpful to remember that as we journey through 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 morning, noon or night, whenever it fits the pattern of your day. Please know that as you make time to pause and be with God, others in the parish are also praying alongside you and that as you go about your day, others are offering their prayers. That is the wonderful thing about this discipline—while we may do this alone, we also do it in community.

Each Sunday a new booklet will be available following the worship service and on our website. You are welcome to keep the booklets each week. 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.

In Peace we pray...

Holy Week

March 29 to April 4

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

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow in my sorrow.

Lamentations 1.12

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 eight. In silence we ask what the reading has to say to us today. 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 Lord’s Servant

He was despised; he was rejected, *
a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.
As one from whom people hide their faces, *
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Ours were the sufferings he bore, *
ours the torments he endured,
while we thought he was being punished, *
struck by God and brought low.
He was pierced for our sins, *

bruised for no fault but ours.
His punishment has won our peace, *
and by his wounds we are healed.
We had all strayed like sheep, *
all taking our own way;
but the Lord laid on him *
the guilt of us all.

Isaiah 53.3-6

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.

The Intercessions

We offer prayers:

For God's creation...

For peace in the world...

For the Church and all who serve in Christ's name...

For our catechumens and those who are their companions during this time of study and preparation...

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer...

For forgiveness from those whom we have injured or offended...

For those who have gone before us in faith...

We conclude our prayers

Palm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

Maundy Thursday

O God, on the night he was betrayed,
Jesus washed the feet of his disciples
and gave himself in a meal of bread and wine.
May we who celebrate these signs of his love,
serve and give ourselves to others in his name
and to your glory;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Good Friday

O Holy and Immortal One,
we veil our face before your glory,
and bow before the cross of your wounded Christ.
With angels and archangels
we praise you, our Mercy,
and we bless you, our Compassion,
for in our brokenness you have not abandoned us.

Holy Saturday

Love divine,
in raising Christ to new life
you open the path of salvation to all peoples.
Send us out with the joy of Mary Magdalene
to proclaim that we have seen the Lord,
so that all the world may celebrate with you
the banquet of your peace.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

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. Amen

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.

Conclusion

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

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and 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. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Then 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.

Mark 11.1-11

Reflection

Cloaks tossed upon the ground

Hosanna!

Palm branches fresh cut and strewn before

Hosanna!

We join the crowd

Hosanna!

Those who run ahead

Hosanna!

Those who follow behind

Hosanna!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Monday in Holy Week

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

Reflection

Oh Mary
You know, don't you?
You know, somehow, deep within
That feeling
That gut-wrenching knowing
Tears mingle in
The fragrance of what is to come
You know
What is to come.

Tuesday in Holy Week

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

Psalm 71.1-3

Reflection

I seek refuge. Not to take away the weight of these days from palms to cross
but to sustain me.

My rock of refuge. A strong fortress.

Wednesday in Holy Week

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

Reflection

Jesus tells them so clearly and yet they miss it.

One will betray

Who?

Bread points the way

They miss it.

Go and buy? Give to the poor?

No! One will betray. Betrayer and betrayed know.

Maundy Thursday

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

John 13.34-32

Reflection

The message for the future. The path forward. It is so simple.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. Ah! But is it so simple? If you accept and live this new commandment, all will know that you follow Jesus.

The cross looms in the future. There is a cost to this love. Jesus knows what it will be. Are we ready?

Good Friday

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19.25b-30

Reflection

It all closes in.

Family draw near.

I am thirsty

It all closes in.

We draw near.

It is finished.

Head bowed

Spirit...

Holy Saturday

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16.1-8

Reflection

Look around.

He is not here.

Look.

There is the place—empty.

Go! Tell!

Soon you will see him—just as he told you.

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