

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

## **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**

**March 24, 2024**

### **THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

*Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace,

**In the name of the Lord.**

*The people receive palms and wave them during the hymn*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 344 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.**

**You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,**

**Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***

**The company of angels are praising you on high;**

**Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

**The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.**

**Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain***

**To you, before your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.**

**To you, now high exulted, our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,**

**Great Author of all goodness, our good and gracious King. *Refrain***

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

ISAIAH 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane," stanza 1**

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK    MARK 15:1-47

### *Jesus before Pilate*

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

### *Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified*

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.

Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane" stanza 2**

**Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;**

**O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!**

**Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn of him to bear the cross.**

### *The Soldiers Mock Jesus*

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

### **HYMN "GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE," stanza 3**

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there adoring at his feet,**

**Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete:**

**"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

### *The Death of Jesus*

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

### *The Burial of Jesus*

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

*Period of Silence*

**HYMN ELW 345 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW**

**Jesus, I will ponder now on Your holy Passion;  
Let Your Spirit now endow me for meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain and death that I may not perish.**

**Make me see Your great distress, anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness and your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound You,  
How You died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned You.**

**Let, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your Passion,  
But its cause to me make known and its termination.  
For I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction;  
This the shameful cause has been of Your crucifixion.**

**Let me view Your pain and loss with repentant grieving,  
Nor prepare again your cross by unholy living.  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Saviour,  
That I may in heav'n above sing your praise forever.**

**THE CELTIC CREED**

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

*a brief silence*

We pray for the church, called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Make us unflinching servants of the gospel. Be our strength in hardships we may encounter as we confront the forces of injustice and practice radical compassion.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants and environments. Train us to recognize your divine presence and goodness in the world around us. Rouse in us a reverence for creation and make us wise stewards of its resources.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority and power, and for the peoples they are meant to nurture and protect. Call their hearts and imaginations to works of compassion and healing. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti, and all places where corruption and violence rules.

We pray merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all those who look to you for mercy and consolation. Uphold those who feel abandoned or betrayed, or have been wrongly accused. Hear our prayers for those whom we love and whose needs we know: Ingrid .... And others we hold before you in our hearts. ....

*pause*

Console us with the promise that everything can be made new.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of all denominations around the world who prepare to observe this week of journey to the cross. Reveal to us again the earth shaking power of humble service, unmerited forgiveness and sacrificial love.

We pray also for our Muslim neighbours as they observe the fast of Ramadan. Lead us all from death to life, and to the peace you desire for all people and all creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember those who have died and have been commended into your hands. Remember us when we have come into your kingdom, and prepare a place for us with you in paradise, merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers we bring on behalf of a world in need, for we pray in the name of Jesus whose walk of faith we follow. **Amen.**

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

*The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life*

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.*

*Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.*

*Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.*



Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

*Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.*

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

*Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

We pray, ***Come, Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit.***

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

We pray, ***Come, Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit.***

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*

*“the body of Christ given for you”      “the blood of Christ shed for you”*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
+ bless you this day and always.

**Amen**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace into this Holy Week.

Journey to the cross and await the power of the resurrection.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE