

Church of the divine love  
**Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**  
**su**  
**Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

**The Liturgy of the Palms** (in parish hall)

see lectionary sheet insert

Processional Hymn #154 – **All glory, laud and honor**

see song insert-verse one sung in procession to the church

**The Word of God**

Opening Acclamation for Lent

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Collect for Palm Sunday – lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Psalm 31:9-16**

Second Reading: **Philippians 2:5-11**

Gradual Hymn #168 – **O sacred head, sore wounded**  
**CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK**

**PASSION OF OUR LORD, JESUS**

(the congregation may be seated until the verse which  
mentions the arrival at Golgatha)

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the People, Form IV

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The Confession

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The Peace      Welcome and Announcements



Mark's gospel that we heard, I want to draw your attention to one theme, one set of characters, one aspect of the drama, that might help us orient ourselves to this story and to the days that follow this one. One of the dominant themes that runs through the Gospel of Mark, from its very beginning is that Jesus' disciples are uncertain of who he is, unclear on what he is about, and misunderstand Jesus' intentions and message. This portrayal intensifies as the gospel progresses, and in the passion narrative, we see a group of disciples who are fearful, forgetful, and abandon Jesus. He dies alone, on the cross, the cry of despair on his lips, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" At the end, Jesus wonders whether he has been abandoned by God, as well as by his friends.

Even as this is Mark's dominant theme, he writes into his gospel another theme, or contrasts the behavior of Jesus' male disciples with another group of individuals, the group of women. So, at the beginning of today's reading, we heard not only of Judas' betrayal of Jesus, but of the wonderful story of the woman who anointed Jesus. Her behavior, and Jesus' praise of her—"she has anointed my body beforehand for burial"—is Jesus' acknowledgment that even if he is betrayed by Judas and the other male disciples don't understand what is going to happen, this woman, this disciple does, and as he commends her he says, in one of those ironic twists Mark loves, "Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her"—ironic, because the story is indeed told of her wherever the gospel is proclaimed, we don't know her name.

So, to at the end of today's reading, Mark depicts Jesus' death, the confession of the centurion, and then, "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. "There they were, watching silently, fearfully, full of grief. There they were standing afar off as their hopes and dreams were dashed, their teacher, killed. There they were as they watched his execution, his death, and watched as others they knew took his body down and buried it. Was it then that they made plans to come to the tomb after the Sabbath, to anoint his body with spices? To touch him once again, to perform the familiar and ancient rituals of burial?"

As followers of Jesus, as seekers, the curious, Holy Week presents us with intense emotions, profound questions. It is a story that many of us know, and as we reenact it in the liturgy of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, we do more than go through motions, or play a part. We enter into the ancient story, and become characters in it ourselves. It is a story that asks us where we stand, what will we do? And all of those characters, Judas the Betrayer, Peter the Denier, the disciples who fell asleep while Jesus prayed, the disciples who fled in fear from the scene and abandoned Jesus. We are at times, all of those characters. We have each at one time or another, acted like one of them, or of the others—the crowd who shouted "Crucify him" or the soldiers who executed him, or the bystanders who mocked. Holy Week confronts us with profound questions, but none may be more pressing, more difficult, than the one that asks, "Where do you stand? Or are you walking with Jesus on his journey? Are you staying with him, bearing witness? Even as our very human emotions, our busy, complicated lives, our divided allegiances, encourage us or tempt us to flee, or keep silent, or deny, or betray, or simply to ignore, Mark

is challenging us, as he always does, to go deeper, to plumb the depths of our own lives and experiences, and as we do that, to look for, to seek Jesus.

When we do that, when we dare to allow Mark's story, the story of Jesus to enter deeply into our lives and world, we are confronted, not only with ourselves, but with the mystery of salvation, the mystery of Jesus, the mystery of love and sacrifice. Earlier in the gospel, as Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem, after he made his first prediction of what would happen when he got there, he told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, take up your cross and follow me." When we do that, we enter into Jesus' journey, going with him into the heart of God, where we will find love. It is not an easy journey, because as Mark insists, the journey to God, into God, is a journey into the suffering, oppression, and injustice of the world, where God is working transformation. It is there that we see God, there we find God, there we know and are loved by God

I wish today were as easy as the crowd makes it look and sound. I wish we could wave our palms, sing our hosannas, offer blessings, and then just go to lunch. But it's not that easy. Today is the doorway into Holy Week, the last few days of Jesus' earthly life, and it's not an easy week. I know that the palms in our hands today will become the ashes that mark our foreheads next year. Triumph, it seems, isn't always what we think it is. I know that I come to this day every year with more questions than answers. There is more to this day and the coming week than I can comprehend or explain. So, I always come to this day with conflicted feelings. I come with joy, anticipation, and hope but I also come with some dread, resistance, and fear. I want to trust and follow the way but I am not so sure about the suffering and dying.

This week, let us listen to the silent Word of God's Love alive in the heart of the dying Savior. Let us listen as the Word of Love makes innocent suffering and death the occasion for His persistent pursuit of our salvation. Let us listen to the Word of Love that calls us into death. Let us be determined to die in the embrace of Love which offers Himself to God and to us in that simultaneous knot of fire that purges away all cruelty, malice, malevolence, ill will, envy, and pride. Following Jesus to the cross, standing near the cross, we encounter God in Christ. We encounter the miracle of transformation as Mark tells us, even his executioner knew and saw, that truly "This man is the Son of God." May this experience and transformation be yours this Holy Week, may this experience and transformation be everyone's in the midst of our broken, suffering, unjust world. **Amen!**

#### SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

10:15 AM

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

(in the parish hall with procession to the church)

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
MAUNDY THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	7:00 PM	HOLY EUCHARIST, II (stripping of the altar)
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
GOOD FRIDAY	7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY (Communion from the reserved sacrament)
SAURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	7:00 PM	THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER DAY

10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
	COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Coffee	Prossers	Giordanos

Eucharistic Ministers for Holy Week

Thursday – Deb Giordano,      Friday – Dana Kenn,      Saturday- Jess Berbeck

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Jess
Bob Curley	Beverly Noel	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Judy
Christopher	Warren	Kristen
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Jerry & Family	Phil Ryder	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Henry	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Ciara	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Jean Estinvil Quatorze	Michelle & Baby	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email Janet Croft at [jmc220@optonline.net](mailto:jmc220@optonline.net).

#### Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart, and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,  
Lay my life before you,  
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus and third verse starting with Spirit.

#### Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen

