**The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

**The Liturgy of the Palms**

and

**Service of Word & Table**

at

**Epworth Chapel on the Green**

6110 W. Northview Street, Boise, Idaho 83704

208-336-3951

www.epworthchapelonthegreen.org

The Rev. John Crow, Rector and Pastor

208-501-4037

**March 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**



**The Lord is God, and he has given us light.**

**Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

**Psalm 118:27b (NRSV)**

*\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“Through the deep current of the historical church we will collaboratively serve and reach the lost in order to make disciples who love Jesus.”**

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This service will be live streamed, and in the course of that any or all persons who attend may be filmed. Remaining in the service will constitute your consent to appear in the live-streamed, recorded, and published service.

**Rector and Pastor:** The Rev. John Crow

**Cantors:** Bryan Vanshur, Shannon Nichols

**Readers:**

**Old Testament:** Carol Crosswhite

**Psalm:** Carol Crosswhite

**Epistle:** Adam Graham

**Acolytes:** Stephen Crow, Josiah Crow, Corbin Crosswhite, Jessica Crosswhite

**Jr. Acolytes:** Asher Crow, Corbin, Jessica, & Lizzie Crosswhite

**Usher:** Asher Crow

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**THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

**Gathered in a Place Apart from the Chapel**

***(As the people gather, the acolytes distribute palm branches. After the people have gathered, the Minister approaches and the service begins.)***

**Minister:** Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*

**Minister:** Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby You have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Gospel**

**Minister:** The holy Gospel is written in the eleventh chapter of the Gospel according to Mark, beginning at verse 1:

*(The people raise their palm branches.)*

1. And when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Beth′phage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples,
2. and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it.
3. If any one says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”
4. And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it.
5. And those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?”
6. And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go.
7. And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it.
8. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.
9. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
10. Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!”
11. And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. (RSV)

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

**Minister:** It is right to praise You, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which You have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Procession**

**Minister:** Let us go forth in peace.

**People:** *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

***(The Minister and people move in procession to the church***

***entrance, waving palm branches in their hands and saying:)***

**Minister:** Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.

**People:** *Hosanna in the highest!*

***Gathered in the Church Entrance***

**Minister:** Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord.

**People:** *Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*

**Minister:** Let us pray. Almighty God, your most dear Son went not up to joy but first to suffer pain, and he entered not into glory without first being 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 Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Minister:** Open the gates of justice!

**People:** *I will enter and tell the Lord how thankful I am.*

**Minister:** Here is the gate of the Lord! All who do right may enter this gate.

**People:** *I praise the Lord for answering my prayers and saving me.*

**Minister:** The stone the builders rejected has now become the most important stone.

**People:** *The Lord has done this, and it is amazing to us.*

**Minister:** This is a day that belongs to the Lord!

**People:** *Let us rejoice and be glad today.*

**Minister:** We’ll ask the Lord to save us.

**People:** *We’ll ask the Lord to let us succeed.*

**Minister:** God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People:** *We bless you from here, in the house of the Lord.*

**Minister:** The Lord is God; he has given us light.

**People:** *Let us join in joyful procession to the altar of the Lord.*

**Minister:** “You are my God, and I will thank you;

**People:** *you are my God, and I will exalt you.”*

**Minister:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**People:** *his mercy endures for ever.*

(Psalm 118:19-29, *Common Worship*)

**ACTS OF ENTRANCE**

***(The people follow the Minister and Acolytes in procession,***

***laying their palm branches in the middle aisle as they take***

***their seats and remain standing.***

**Cantors:**

“Who is this, a Man of Sorrows, walking sadly life’s hard way, homeless, weary, sighing, weeping over sin and Satan’s sway? ‘Tis our God, our glorious Savior, who above the starry sky now for us a place prepareth, where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this, behold him raining drops of blood upon the ground! Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound? ‘Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church now poureth down; who shall crush in righteous judgment all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this, that hangeth dying, while the rude world scoffs and scorns, nails his hands and feet are tearing, see, his head is crowned with thorns? ‘Tis our God who ever liveth, ‘mid the shining ones on high, in the glorious golden city, reigning everlastingly.” (*Who Is This So Weak and Helpless*, vv. 2-4; William How)

**Processional Hymn (the people standing):**

*All Glory, Laud and Honor*  (No. 153)

**Minister:** Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

**People:** *His mercy endures forever.*

**Lord’s Prayer: (found on page 1 in the pew hymnal)**

**Minister:** Let us pray…

**The Collect for Purity:**

**Minister:** Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Mutual Invocation of the Grace of God for the Service of the Word:**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**(The people then be seated.)**

**Old Testament Lesson (the people sitting):**

**Reader:** The Old Testament reading is written in the fifty-second and fifty-third chapters of the book of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at verse 13 of chapter fifty-two:

13 Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

14  As many were astonished at him—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men—

15  so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

1. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2. For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
3. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
5. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.
6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
7. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.
8. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?
9. And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
10. Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand;
11. he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities.
12. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (RSV)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The Psalm: (The people sit for the responsive reading of a portion of Psalm 22, a plea for deliverance from suffering and hostility.)**

**Reader:** The Psalm is chapter 22, beginning at verse 1. Let us say together:

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel*.*

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reader:** Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**All:** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* (NRSV)

***Gloria Patri*:**

**Reader:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**People:** *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Collect for Palm/Passion Sunday:**

**Minister**: Almighty and everlasting God, of your tender love toward mankind You sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all people should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and be made partakers of his resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**People**: *Amen*.

**The Epistle (the people sitting):**

**Reader:** The Epistle lesson is written in the second chapter of the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, beginning at verse 5:

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (RSV)

**Reader:** Here ends the Epistle.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Passion Hymn (all standing):**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*  (No. 155)

**(The people then sit.)**

**The Gospel (Luke 22:39-23:49)**

**Minister:** The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

**Minister:**

39 Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives.

40 There he told them, “Pray that you will not be overcome by temptation.”

41 He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed,

42 “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.”

43 Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.

44 He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

45 At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief.

46 “Why are you sleeping?” he asked. “Get up and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you.”

**The People:**

*47 But even as he said this, a mob approached, led by Judas, one of his twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss.*

**Minister:**

48 But Jesus said, “Judas, how can you betray me, the Son of Man, with a kiss?”

49 When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!”

50 And one of them slashed at the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus said, “Don't resist anymore.” And he touched the place where the man's ear had been and healed him.

52 Then Jesus spoke to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard and the other leaders who headed the mob. “Am I some dangerous criminal,” he asked, “that you have come armed with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.”

54 So they arrested him and led him to the high priest's residence, and Peter was following far behind.

59 The guards lit a fire in the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter joined them there.

56 A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, “This man was one of Jesus’ followers!”

57 Peter denied it. “Woman,” he said, “I don't even know the man!”

58 After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!” “No, man, I'm not!” Peter replied.

59 About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of Jesus’ disciples because he is a Galilean, too.”

60 But Peter said, “Man, I don't know what you are talking about.” And as soon as he said these words, the rooster crowed.

61 At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered that the Lord had said, “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny me three times.”

62 And Peter left the courtyard, crying bitterly.

**The People:**

*63 Now the guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating him.*

*64 They blindfolded him; then they hit him and asked, “Who hit you that time, you prophet?”*

*65 And they threw all sorts of terrible insults at him.*

**Minister:**

66 At daybreak all the leaders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council,

67 and they said, “Tell us if you are the Messiah.” But he replied, “If I tell you, you won't believe me.

68 And if I ask you a question, you won't answer.

69 But the time is soon coming when I, the Son of Man, will be sitting at God's right hand in the place of power.”

70 They all shouted, “Then you claim you are the Son of God?” And he replied, “You are right in saying that I am.”

71 “What need do we have for other witnesses?” they shouted. “We ourselves heard him say it.”

**The People:**

*23:1Then the entire council took Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor.*

*2 They began at once to state their case: “This man has been leading our people to ruin by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king.”*

**Minister:**

3 So Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”  
Jesus replied, “Yes, it is as you say.”

4 Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, “I find nothing wrong with this man!”

5 Then they became desperate*.*

**The People:**

*“But he is causing riots everywhere he goes, all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!”*

**Minister:**

6 “Oh, is he a Galilean?” Pilate asked.

7 When they answered that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod's jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.

8 Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle.

9 He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer.

10 Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations.

11 Now Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Then they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate.

12 Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.

13 Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people,

14 and he announced his verdict. “You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent.

15 Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty.

16 So I will have him flogged, but then I will release him.”

18 Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted,

**The People:**

*“Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!”*

**Minister:**

19 (Barabbas was in prison for murder and for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government.)

20 Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus.

21 But they shouted,

**The People:**

*“Crucify him! Crucify him!”*

**Minister:**

22 For the third time he demanded, “Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. I will therefore flog him and let him go.”

23 But the crowd shouted louder and louder for Jesus’ death, and their voices prevailed.

24 So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded.

25 As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he delivered Jesus over to them to do as they wished.

26 As they led Jesus away, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country just then, was forced to follow Jesus and carry his cross.

27 Great crowds trailed along behind, including many grief-stricken women.

28 But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

29 For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’

30 People will beg the mountains to fall on them and the hills to bury them.

31 For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

32 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him.

33 Finally, they came to a place called The Skull.

**[At the mention of a Place called The Skull, the people stand.]**

All three were crucified there -- Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.

34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

**The People:**

*35 The crowd watched, and the leaders laughed and scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God's Chosen One, the Messiah.”*

*36 The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine.*

*37 They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”*

**Minister:**

38 A signboard was nailed to the cross above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself -- and us, too, while you're at it!”

40 But the other criminal protested, “Don't you fear God even when you are dying?

41 We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn't done anything wrong.”

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

44 By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the thick veil hanging in the Temple was torn apart.

46 Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.

47 When the captain of the Roman soldiers handling the executions saw what had happened, he praised God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”

48 And when the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw all that had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

49 But Jesus’ friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching. (NLT)

**Passion Hymn (all standing):**

*Throned Upon the Awful Tree* (No. 103)

**Minister:** Grace be unto you, and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** *Amen.* **(The people then be seated)**

**The Sermon**

**Minister:** In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**(The people remain seated.)**

**Silence, for review of the sermon, and for meditative prayer**

**SERVICE OF THE TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Minister: (The people sitting)** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offertory:**

**Offering Hymn (all standing):**

*There Is a Green Hill Far Away*  (No. 151)

**Minister:** All things come from You, O Lord.

**People:** *And of your own have we given You.*

**The Prayers of the People (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Let us pray for the Church and the world. For the unity of the Church throughout the world, that we might faithfully preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the persecuted church, and for its persecutors, that You would turn their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For our President and all who govern and hold authority in our nation and in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the good earth which You have given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For all ministers of your Gospel, that they might faithfully preach your Word, administer your sacraments, and care for your people, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among all nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For all those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that in due time we may all stand reconciled before You, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the poor and the oppressed, prisoners and captives, the unemployed, and all who are in need or trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For our enemies and all who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** We pray for this congregation, that we might show forth your glory in all that we do; and for those who have commended themselves to our prayers, including these: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

[Nation: Sweden

Denomination: Church of God of Prophecy

Congregation: Wilmore Free Methodist Church, Wilmore, KY, and the Rev. Daryl Diddle

Ministry: Military Chaplains

Parishioners: Those living on Esquire Circle],

Grant that all of these may be delivered from anxiety, and live in joy, peace, and health.

*(Please add your own intentions, either silently or aloud.)*

**Minister:** Let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** We bless your holy Name for the thanksgivings of your people, including these: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored;Give us grace to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

*(Please add your intentions, either silently or aloud.)*

**Minister:** Let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer*

**Collect:**

**Minister:** O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to You for help; for You are gracious, O lover of souls, and to You we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All:** *Amen*.

**Preparation for Holy Communion:**

**Minister:** The Lord’s Supper was ordained by God to be a means of conveying grace according to the need of each person. Those for whom it was ordained are all those who know and feel that they want the grace of God, to restrain them from sin, or to forgive their sins, or to assure them of pardon, or to renew their souls in the image of God, or to enter into the holy presence of God in communion with him. No preparation is indispensably necessary, other than a desire to receive the grace God pleases to give. No fitness or church membership is required at the time of communicating, other than a sense of our state, of our utter sinfulness and helplessness apart from Christ. Therefore, if you want such grace as God pleases to give to you, draw near with faith, and as you prepare to receive this holy sacrament to your comfort and strength, make your humble confession and petition to Almighty God.

**The Prayer of Confession, Petition and Thanksgiving:**

**(The minister kneels, and the people kneel or sit.)**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all persons: We have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We acknowledge and have experienced the power of sin and the Evil One, but even more we acknowledge your grace to forgive all sin and to enable and empower your people, by your grace working through our faith in the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, to be freed in this life from the bondage of sin and death. You have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross. We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in our service, and our imperfect stewardship of your gifts. Where there is sin or falling short of your will in our lives, or any spiritual pride, carelessness or presumption on our part, or any failure to see or know your good and righteous will, we earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake. Forgive us all that is past, grant that we may ever serve and please You in newness of life, and accept our thanksgiving for the wondrous grace and forgiveness You extend to us, to the honor and glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**The *Agnus Dei* (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world;

**People:** *Have mercy upon us, and grant us your peace.*

**Prayer for Absolution (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You; Have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Comforting Words of Forgiveness (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Hear what comforting words our Savior Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Hear also what St. Paul says: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear also what St. John says: If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the atonement for our sins.

**The Passing of the Peace:**

**Minister:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister:** Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his Name and share his peace. Let us offer those near to us a sign of peace.

**(The people rise and remain standing.)**

*(The people greet those near to them, saying, “The peace of the Lord be with you,” or, “Peace be with you,” or simply, “Peace.” They respond to one another, “And also with you,” or simply, “Peace”.)*

**Hymn of Thanksgiving for Forgiveness (all standing):**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded* (No. 156)

**Preparation for the Table:**

**(Minister:** I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O LORD, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.) [Psalm 26:6-7, NIV]

**The *Sursum Corda* (all standing):**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

**Minister:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**People:** *It is meet and right so to do.*

**The Salutation:**

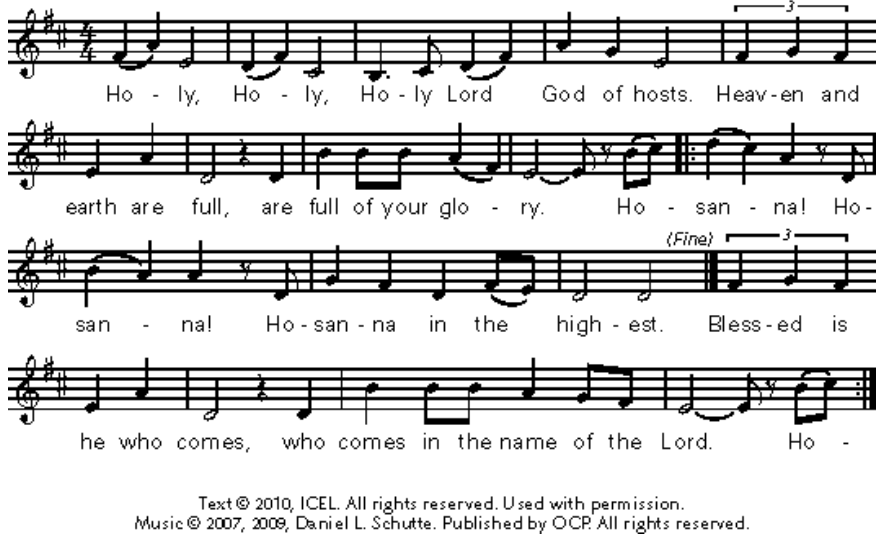
**Minister:** It is very meet, right, and our gladsome duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God,

**The Preface:**

**Minister:** Through Jesus Christ our Lord; For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

**Minister:** Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising You, and saying,

**The *Sanctus* (all standing, singing):**



**The Prayer of Humble Access and for Cleansing:**

**(The people kneeling or sitting.)**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But You are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to experience the spiritual presence of your dear Son Jesus Christ at this your table, that we may be made clean by his body and blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Deliver us, gracious Lord, from the presumption of coming to this table for solace for ourselves only, and not for strength to serve You and others. Deliver us, gracious Lord, from the presumption of coming to this table for pardon of our sins only, and not for transformation of our lives in your holiness. Amen.*

***Epiclesis* Prayer (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Holy Father, You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that in obedience to You, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from You, You did not abandon us to the power of death. Again and again You called us into covenant with You, and through the prophets You taught us to hope for salvation. In the fullness of time You sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfull your purpose he gave himself up to death, and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer You these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit, that they may be to us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice to Christ, to the praise of your holy Name. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O Father Almighty, now and forever.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Words of Institution (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins: Do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Minister:** Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

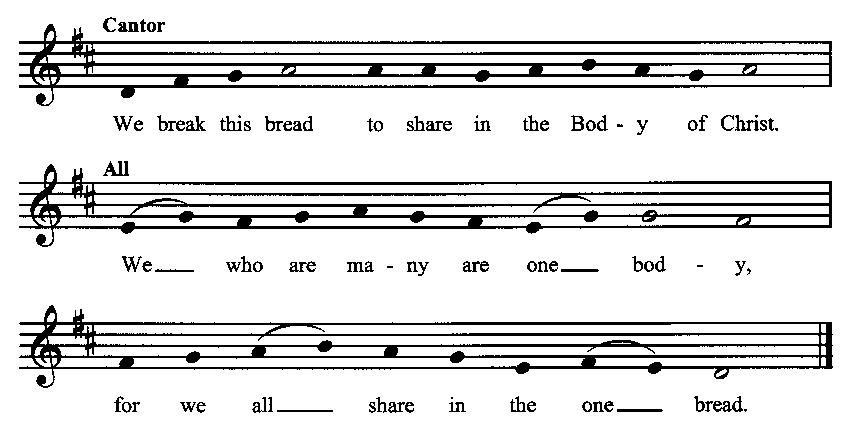
**People:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

**The Fraction:**

**Minister:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

**Fraction Anthem (the people kneeling or sitting, singing):**



**Minister:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and rose again, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Communion Hymn (cantors only, the people kneeling or sitting):**

“In this expressive bread I see The wheat by man cut down for me, And beat, and bruised, and ground: The heavy pains and plagues and blows Which Jesus suffered from His foes, are in this emblem found.

Seized by the rage of sinful man I see Him bound, and bruised, and slain; ‘Tis done the martyr dies! His life to ransom ours is giv’n, And lo! the fiercest fire of heav’n Consumes the sacrifice.

He suffers both from man and God, He bears the universal load Of guilt and misery. He suffers to reverse our doom: And lo! my Lord is here become The bread of life to me.” (*In This Expressive Bread I See*, vv. 1, 4-5; Charles Wesley)

**The Communion, open to all:** *(After the minister(s) and acolyte(s) are served, the people come forward to receive, as space is available. The people kneel if they are able, or stand.* **Communion by intincture: The people receive the Bread in their open hands, continue to hold it, then dip the Bread in the cup, and then consume.** *They return to their seats via the side aisles.*)

**Renewal of the Mutual Invocation of God’s Grace for the Eucharist:**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Living Sacrifice:**

**(The minister kneeling, the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *O Lord and Heavenly Father, we heartily thank You because You feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; because by this You assure us of your favor and goodness toward us; because we are living members of the body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. We ask You to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ and through faith in him, we and all your whole Church may obtain all of the benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto You, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto You; humbly asking You that we may be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto You, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.*

**Prayer of Lenten Dedication (all standing):**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *O Lord, inspire your Church to witness to her Lord at this season by following You in humility and simplicity of life. Give us wisdom to make good resolves and grace to maintain them. Grant that we may so deepen and purify our worship that we shall know more fully your holy will. Amen.*

**ACTS OF DISMISSAL**

**Recessional Hymn (all standing):**

*Our Life Is Hid with Christ in God* (No. 124)

**The Prayer of Benediction:**

**Minister:** May God strengthen you to walk with Jesus into this most holy week, granting you grace to share in his suffering, and joy at being raised to newness of life; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Minister:** Let us bless the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.* **(The people then be seated.)**

**(The people sit and remain quiet until the candles are extinguished and the organ chimes its voice.)**

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Based on, and freely adapted from,

John Wesley’s *Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper*,

The 1662 and 1979 editions of *The Book of Common Prayer,* and

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*

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**Scripture Lessons for April 9th (Easter Sunday):**

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Mark 16:1-8

**Parish Prayer This Week and Next Sunday**

Those living on Esquire Drive

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Great Triduum Approaches**Please plan now to attend every service.

This is the week upon which the rest of the Christian year is based. Indeed, no other service in the year, and no other attendance at worship during the year, can fully compensate for missing any part of this week’s worship.

As you have attended services at Epworth, have you ever wondered why such a big deal is made, and so much emphasis is given, to the intentionality, theme, cohesiveness, scope and integrity of each Sunday’s worship service? The answer to that question is this: Holy Week. All of the meaning and drama of the liturgy throughout the year find their primary source in Holy Week. The events of Holy Week are why we’re here, why Epworth exists, and why we do what we do throughout the year. If you live fully in Holy Week and worship fully in Holy Week, the liturgy can more readily come alive for you thereafter.

These look like separate services, but as a matter of fact, a special practice of early Christian worship was to treat the three days from Thursday night to Sunday morning as an act of one continuous worship. That practice of “The Great Three Days” has been revived in the worship renewal of the twentieth century.

Because the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus are not three separate events, but one event, integral and indivisible, the services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/Easter Day are not three separate services but one service, integral and indivisible, celebrated over three days. The word *triduum* (“three days”) was first used by Augustine to express the essential unity of this single, three-day service. According to ancient understanding, the day begins at sundown rather than at midnight. Thus the evening of Holy Thursday is considered the beginning of Good Friday, the first day of the triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter day).

As part of the triduum, the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are not optional extras for the very devout, but essential elements of the entire service, without which the celebration of Easter is incomplete. To experience fully the meaning of the triduum, it is necessary to participate fully in each of its component parts.

**Parish Notices**

**Holy Week Services at Epworth**

**Maundy Thursday,** March 28, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday,** March 29, 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil,** Saturday, March 30, 8:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday,** March 31, 10 a.m., Word & Table

**What is Passion Sunday?**

We are all familiar with Palm Sunday, commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, but we are less familiar with Passion Sunday. The week before Holy Week is known as Passiontide, which begins with the fifth Sunday in Lent, (also called Passion Sunday.) However, we combine Palm and Passion Sunday at Epworth into a single celebration. As the name implies, Passion Sunday emphasizes the last week of the life of our Lord, and the events of His passion (suffering).

**Ending next week: March to End Hunger Food Drive**

We have one more week to collect food for the annual Boise Rescue Mission March to End Hunger food drive. The white barrel in the Narthex will be available through Easter Sunday to collect food for the needy. The specific list of needs is posted on the barrel, with copies you can take with you.

**Coming Events at Epworth**

Today, 10:00 am Word & Table Service

Today, 11:30 am Fellowship

Today, 11:45 am Afterword (moderated discussion)

**March Birthdays & Anniversaries**

15 – Warren Leonard

19 – Asher Crow

21 – Shannon Nichols

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

02 – Robyn Millar

05 – Jessica Crosswhite

16 – Dorothy Millard

**Sermon Notes**

**Epworth Church Office Email**

[epworthchapel.office@gmail.com](mailto:epworthchapel.office@gmail.com)

All correspondence for the office should be sent to this email address.

**Pastor Crow Contact Information**

***Healing prayer is provided every week upon request***

Rev. John Crow, Interim Rector and Pastor

208-501-4037

[jdowningcrow@hotmail.com](mailto:jdowningcrow@hotmail.com)