



St. Alban's
Episcopal Church
Indianapolis

Holy Week

Online Worship Bulletin

This booklet includes the services for:

Maundy Thursday with Agape Meal at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday with the reading of John's Passion at 11:00 a.m.

(Stations of the Cross is a separate bulletin)

Holy Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Join us on any of these platforms:

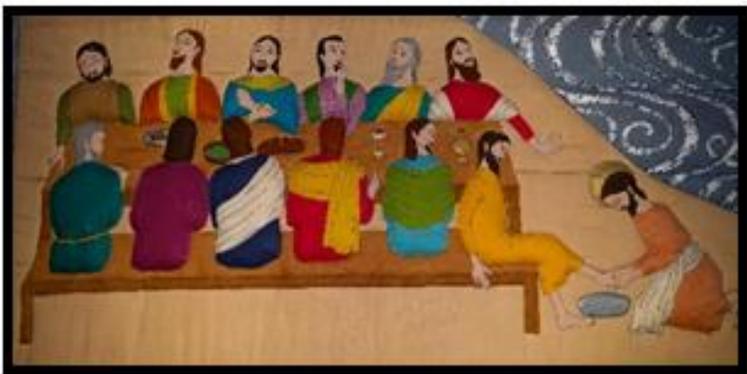
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From: St. Alban's Waters of Life tapestry

Photo: D. Dehler

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.

A service of ritual washing and an agape meal

Many Christian communities have the custom of sharing a simple meal before or after the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, as part of the commemoration of the two "maundys" (maundy = commandment) of the Lord, to "love one another" and to break bread "in remembrance of me."

We know that our Lord shared a last meal with his disciples. In the Gospel of John (chapter 13), at this meal Jesus washed the feet of his twelve disciples saying, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another" (John 13:34). At this supper, our Lord instituted - created the new tradition of - what St. Paul called "the Lord's Supper" in which Jesus gives new meaning to bread and wine shared at this meal (see Luke 22:14-20).

Since we are unable to gather in person and celebrate the Last Supper (Eucharist), our Maundy Thursday practice will be to focus on the first maundy "love one another" given during a simple meal, a meal of love - or in Greek, agape.

To prepare for this worship service, please gather simple foods: bread, olives, cheese, wine/juice, fruits. Place these on your table, along with candles and any other sacred symbols you choose.

Also, please have ready soft, clean towels and, if you would like, a fragrant oil or lotion. Prepare a bowl to fill with warm water following the reflection. These items will be used in our ritual hand washing (done in place of the usual foot washing on Maundy Thursday).

The Word of God

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Presider Lord, have mercy.

People Christ, have mercy.

Presider Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may remember it thankfully in our Agape meal this evening, knowing that in these holy mysteries Jesus Christ our Lord gives us a pledge of eternal life. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

¹⁰ How shall I repay the LORD * for all the good things he has done for me?

¹¹ I will lift up the cup of salvation * and call upon the Name of the LORD.

¹² I will fulfill my vows to the LORD * in the presence of all his people.

- ¹³ Precious in the sight of the LORD * is the death of his servants.
- ¹⁴ O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- ¹⁵ I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- ¹⁶ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD * in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁷ In the courts of the LORD's house, * in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 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.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection on the First Maundy: *How can we practice this commandment to love one another? What acts of service are we doing for others?*

Wash my Hands

by Lucy Nanson, New Zealand

Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday
not my feet

My hands peel potatoes, wipe messes from the floor
change dirty nappies, clean the grease from pots and pans
have pointed in anger and pushed away in tears
in years past they've smacked a child and raised a fist
fumbled with nervousness, shaken with fear
I've wrung them when waiting for news to come
crushed a letter I'd rather forget
covered my mouth when I've been caught out
touched forbidden things, childhood memories do not grow dim
These hands have dug gardens, planted seeds
picked fruit and berries, weeded out and pruned trees
found bleeding from the rose's thorns
dirt and blood mix together
when washed before a cup of tea
Love expressed by them
asks for your respect
in the hand-shake of warm greeting,
the gentle rubbing of a child's bump
the caressing of a lover, the softness of a baby's cheek
sounds of music played by them in tunes upon a flute
they've held a frightened teenager,

touched a father in his death
where cold skin tells the end of life has come
but not the end of love,
comforted a mother losing agility and health.
With my hands outstretched before you
I stand humbled and in awe
your gentle washing in water, the softness of the towel
symbolizing a cleansing
the servant-hood of Christ.
Wash my hands on Maundy Thursday
and not my feet.

Ritual Hand Washing

Have a clean, soft towels, and fragrant lotion/oil ready for this portion of the service. We will pause for you to bring a bowl of warm water to your table.

Presider: Brothers and sisters in Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or miracle, but by such simple service.

If able, the gathered people should wash and anoint each other's hands. If one person is praying this service in solitude, then it is appropriate to wash one's own hands. As you wash, say:

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Then, gently dry the wet hands and anoint them with the lotion/oil, praying:

**I bless these hands, and the work that they do,
and the people that they touch, and the love that they give.**

Presider: The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

People: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Presider: I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Presider: By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Prayers of the People

Reader Lord God, you are both host and servant at this meal and in our lives. Teach us, we pray, to follow your example of love, hospitality, and service.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, broken in many ways. We wait on your guidance and nourishment for our lives, for encouragement and strength for your mission.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our leaders, responsible for shaping our common life, that they may lead us in ways of justice and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who struggle to find food and shelter tonight, who hunger for peace, who ache for warmth and friendship. Heal broken hearts and spirits. Envelop the sick with your healing embrace. We pray for those who know the pain of betrayal, and for those who face death today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we follow you into the garden, into the unknown, teach us to trust the lessons of this night.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Agape Meal

*If you would like to dine together or simply have your meal blessed,
please bring your meal to the table now.*

Agape Meal Blessings

Lift the item you are offering to God as you say these blessings.

Over Wine/Juice

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

At this time, we may dine together.

When the meal has ended, let us clear our tables and wash them in silence.

*On this holy night, you are invited to keep vigil in a quiet place
in your home, praying with Jesus.*

*Portions of this service were used with permission and adapted from Church of the Ascension, Parkesburg PA;
The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel, Rector.*

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*The Seventh Station, Via Dolorosa,
Jerusalem Photo: D. Dehler*

Good Friday

11:00 a.m.

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, 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. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 22

BCP page 610

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

⁴ Our forefathers put their trust in you; *

- they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵ They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- ⁸ "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- ⁹ Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰ I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- ¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.
- ¹² Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- ¹³ They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- ¹⁵ My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- ¹⁶ Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
- ¹⁷ They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- ¹⁸ Be not far away, O LORD; * you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- ¹⁹ Save me from the sword, * my life from the power of the dog.
- ²⁰ Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- ²¹ I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- ²² Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give
glory.
- ²³ For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

- ²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- ²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- ²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- ²⁷ For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
- ²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- ²⁹ My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- ³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John 18:1-19:42

Please see the insert

We will remain in silence following the reading of the Passion.

The Solemn Collects

Presider Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and

become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world: For its unity in witness and service. For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve. For Jennifer our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese. For all Christians in this community. That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace. *Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them: For Joe, the President of the United States. For the Congress and the Supreme Court. For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations. For all who serve the common good. That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord. *Silence*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind: For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed. For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled. For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish. For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair. For the sorrowful and bereaved. For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger. That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ: For those who have never heard the word of salvation. For those who have lost their faith.

For those hardened by sin or indifference. For the contemptuous and the scornful. For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples. For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience. *Silence*

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection. *Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Presider Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for

with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please join us at 7:00 this evening for the virtual offering of the Stations of the Cross.

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Holy Saturday

11:00 a.m.

Presider Let us pray.

O God, 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; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Lesson

Job 14:1-14

Job said, "A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble, comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgment with you? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can. Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, look away from them, and desist, that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days.

"For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep. Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Incline your ear to me; * make haste to deliver me.

- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- ⁴ Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; * rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your loving-kindness
save me."

The Second Lesson

First Peter 4:1-8

Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:57-66

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than

the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection

The Reverend Debbie Dehler

Presider In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?
From you alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us away from you at our last hour.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior, deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Presider If we have died with him, we shall also live with him;
if we endure, we shall also reign with him.

Presider We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Please celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at our Easter service, April 4 at 10:30 a.m.