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

**March 24, 2024**

We read the passion according to St. Mark in the midst of the community on this day so that the story of Jesus' suffering and death will be a place where all our individual and communal stories of pain, loss, suffering, and death during the past year can find some meaning. For we are confronted each day with the tragedies of human suffering that seem to challenge the truth of God's love and providential care for us.

The Christian response to human suffering is not finally a philosophically reasoned series of answers, but an invitation to the kenosis, the self-emptying, of Jesus. The Marcan passion narrative bids us to enter into Jesus' struggle to accept in faith the reality of suffering in human life. God created us as human beings that we might have life and have it in abundance. In the self-emptying of Jesus' passion, death and sin are conquered because they are taken into the mystery of God and transformed into new life.

Today let us allow our experience of suffering to flow into the mystery of the cup of Christ's passion. Come to the table of the cross, and share in the victory of Christ by drinking new life greater than all the forces of suffering and death.

**Thomas McGonigle, O.P.**

One who has surrendered to it knows that the way ends on the Cross—even when it is leading through the jubilation of Gennesaret or the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

**Dag Hammarskjöld**

 **✠ *In the Name of Jesus* ✠**

**INTRODUCTION**

Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion today and John's version on Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This holy week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

**Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980**

*Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.*

**✠ GATHERING ✠**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

P: Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna to the Son of David.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, 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

 everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11: 1-10**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples 2and 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. 3If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' "

4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and He sat on it.

8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

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

10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11Then 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.

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The congregation raises their palm branches*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: We praise and thank You, O God, for the great 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 acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those

 who scattered their garments and branches of palm in His path.

 We ask that You bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may

 ever hail Him as our Lord and King and follow Him with perfect confidence; through

 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

 one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us go forth in peace.

**C: In the name of the Lord.**

**THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Glory, Laud, and Honor***

The hymn is repeated until all have taken their seats

**Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to You, redeemer, King,**

**To Whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

1. You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son, now in the Lord’s name coming,

 our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

2. The company of angels are praising You on high; creation and all mortals in chorus

 make reply. **Refrain**

3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before You went. Our praise and prayer and

 anthems before You we present. **Refrain**

4. To You, before Your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To You, now high

 exalted, our melody we raise. **Refrain**

5. Their praises You accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great Author of all

 goodness, O good and gracious King. **Refrain**

*When all have reached their seats*

P: Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest!**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, You have established Your rule in the human heart through

 the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By Your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of

 those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise Him as

 Savior, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

**FIRST READING Isaiah 50: 4-9a**

*This text, the third of the "Servant Songs" that arose in the last years of Israel's exile in Babylon, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.*

4The 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.

5The Lord God has opened my ear,

 and I was not rebellious,

 I did not turn backward.

6I 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.

7The 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;

 8He Who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

 Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

 Let them confront me.

9It is the Lord God who helps me;

 who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 31: 9-16 Read responsively**

9Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**10For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

11I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,

a dismay to those of my acquaintance;

when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**12I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**14But as for me, I have trusted in You, O Lord.**

**I have said, "You are my God.**

15My times are in Your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**16Make Your face to shine upon Your servant,**

**and in Your lovingkindness save me."**

**SECOND READING Philippians 2: 5-11**

*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience, even to death, and his exaltation as Lord of all.*

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

 6Who, though He was in the form of God,

 did not regard equality with God

 as something to be exploited,

 7but emptied Himself,

 taking the form of a slave,

 being born in human likeness.

 And being found in human form,

 8He humbled Himself

 and became obedient to the point of death --

 even death on a cross.

 9Therefore God also highly exalted Him

 and gave Him the name

 that is above every name,

 10so that at the name of Jesus

 every knee should bend,

 in heaven and on earth and

 under the earth,

 11and every tongue should confess

 that Jesus Christ is Lord,

 to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE VERSE**

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**THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47**

*The passion story in Mark’s Gospel presents Jesus as One Who dies abandoned by all. He shows Himself to be the true Son of God by giving His life for those who have forsaken Him.*

P: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Mark.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

*The assembly is seated*

*Following the reading of the Passion*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated for silence and meditation*

**THE HOMILY**

*Silence following the homily is kept*

*As you are able please rise*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY 343 *My Song is Love Unknown***

 **Stanza 2—Men; Stanza 3—Women; Stanza 4--Choir**

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

A: On this Day the Church hears again the Passion of our Lord, into which we are baptized.

 Re-created by the mind of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all those

 for whom Christ died and rose again.

A: That the Church not grow weary in its witness and teaching of the Gospel but

 courageously follow the way of the cross and proclaim the truth of Christ to all, let us

 pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That where persecution and injustice holds sway in our world the love of Jesus would

 conquer and bring peace to all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That those preparing for Baptism might be filled with grace as this Week they enter the

 font of life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That, as we celebrate Holy Week we may empty ourselves as Christ Jesus did, serving

 in unselfish love, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That those who by their sufferings share in the passion of Christ, especially the hungry,

 the homeless, the lonely, the grieving, and the sick, especially: **Debbie Martin;** **Jim**

 **Gleason; Erica McMahan; Venia Wendt; Pat Fischer; Chris and Ronwyn Jones;**

 **and Margie Torres** might also share in the power of Christ’s new life, let us pray to

the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That those celebrating anniversaries, especially **Marvin and Diane Dirks; and Larry**

 **and Judy Litchford** may grow in grace this day and every day and be filled with grace

for the days ahead, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: That with all the saints who live in the glory of Christ, especially **Oscar Romero,**

 **Bishop of El Salvador and martyr,** whom we commemorate this Day and whose joy

is complete we too may one day enter with them into the full light of Christ, let us pray

 to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: God our Creator, You show Your daughters and sons the way to freedom and life

 through the gentle obedience of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant our petitions as we

 faithfully follow Him through life, into death, and into new and glorious Easter life.

 We ask this in the name above every name, Jesus Christ the Lord, to Your glory, Father.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY** ***Hosanna, Blessed is He That Cometh* St. Paul Senior Choir**

 **(H. Hedges)**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE OFFERTORY (see p. 9)**

**

**THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Gracious Father,

**C: In humble obedience Your Son endured suffering, rejection, and death on the**

 **cross. As He emptied Himself for us, so we bring You the sacrifice of our praise**

 **and thanksgiving. By this holy Sacrament, conform us daily to the mind of Christ.**

 **We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is our joy and destiny to praise You, Lord Go, for in wondrous love You cast

 stars into space, and in meek obedience Your Son surrendered to cruel nails.

 With lovingkindness You called Your people in Abraham, and in covenant with Moses

 You bound up Your life in theirs.

 Through exile You stayed close to them bearing the fullness of grace and truth.

 Your Son Jesus faced rejection, cruelty, and death, yet in resurrection You exalted

 Him, and in sending Your Spirit You shed glory on all people.

 Hosanna is our cry, Blessed One.

 Your Son comes on a donkey in Your name.

 As Jesus entered Jerusalem to bear our sorrows and suffer for our sings, enter our

 hearts and confront our waywardness today.

 Send Your Spirit upon us, that we may be Your Son’s crucified and risen Body.

 Send Your Spirit on this bread that it may be living Bread, and on this wine that it

 may be the cup of salvation, that together they may be for us the Body and

 Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

 Who in the night ... “Do this for the remembrance of Me.”

 As often as we eat ... we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Humble God, Your Son did not exploit His status but emptied Himself.

 Pour out Your Spirit on all who are exploited, in world or church, on all who are

 humbled, by state or employer or family member, on all who are emptied

 of hope, faith, or love.

 As You highly exalted Your Son Who had become a slave, highly exalt Your

 children who suffer for righteousness, or grieve those they have cherished,

 or bend the knee to one who does not honor them.

 Fill the earth with Your justice and peace, until every heart shall sing and every

 tongue confess that You are the joy of their desiring, Father,**✠** Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God, in all ages forevermore.

**C: Amen!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Baptized into Christ’s death that we might share in the resurrection, let us pray for the

 fulfillment of this mystery as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

 **Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

 **Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive**

 **those who sin against us.**

 **Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

 **For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.**

 **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

P: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

 Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb. God’s holy gifts for God’s

 holy people. Come, for all is now ready.

*The assembly is seated*

**THE DISTRIBUTION**

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**HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION 353 *Were You There?***

 **338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

**349 *Ah, Holy Jesus***

*As you are able please rise*

**THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, by His death on the cross Your Son freed us from the

 bondage to sin and death. Watch over Your Church, and all who celebrate these Holy

 Mysteries. In this Sacrament, give us Food for our journey from death to life. Grant

 this through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**THE BENEDICTION**

P: Almighty God: Father, Son, **✠** and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 347 *Go to Dark Gethsemane***

The congregation faces the cross as it leaves

**THE DISMISSAL**

A: Reconciled to God through Christ, let us go out into the world in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE POSTLUDE**

**✠ *To God Alone Be Glory* ✠**

The Meditation is from Thomas McGonigle, O.P., in Homilies for the Christian People,

 ed. Gail Ramshaw (New York: Pueblo, 1989), 252.

The Greeting, Prayers, Peace, and Dismissal are adapted from *Sundays and Seasons.*

 Copyright 2001 Augsburg Fortress.

The Prayers, Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer, and Invitation to the Meal are adapted from

 *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons. Year A.* Peter J. Scagnelli. (Chicago: Liturgy

Training Publications, 1998) 40-41.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please remember to mail your offering to the Church Office** at 818 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN 46360**.** Another alternative is to give on-line through Tithe.ly. Please see your closure letter for information on how to set up a Tithe.ly account.

**St. Paul Members are reminded to have** a loved one contact the office if you are hospitalized. Many times, the Pastor doesn’t know someone is in the hospital. If you call and leave a message, please tell us which hospital the patient is at.

**ANNIVERSARIES: Marvin & Diane Dirks (3/24); Larry & Judy Litchford (3/26)**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Debbie Martin, Erica McMahan, Sue Koziel, Jana Thomas, Margie Torres, Jayla Jacobi, Jim Gleason, Ronwynn Jones, Chris Jones, Mark Tannehill, Joan Seifert, Virginia Murray, Brian Wiseman, Jary Tannehill and Sue Granacki.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Libby will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays,

 and Fridays; volunteers will cover Tuesdays and Thursdays.

  Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**If you are listening to the worship broadcast on the radio and would like to watch the Sunday morning service live stream follow these steps:**

(1) If you have You Tube available on your TV, search for

 **St. Paul Lutheran Church Michigan City, IN.**

(2) The direct link on the computer is

 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5AIPNaKr3QN50984jGOa1g.

    (3) This link is also on the main page of the church’s website in

 the church section and will continue to be posted weekly on the St.

 Paul Facebook page.

And it will always be available on the radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

on WEFM (95.9), and on the local cable access station #99 for the previous week’s

service on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and the current service on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and

Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

**The approved and signed minutes of the December 28, 2023 and January 25, 2024 Church Council Meetings are on the table at the back of the church in the Narthex. Please take a copy with you as you go.**

**To send e-mail to the church office**, please use the following addresses:

Pastor Mark Reshan: seniorpastor@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Office Secretary (Libby Pollock): churchsecretary@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Treasurer (Karen Fleming): finance@stpaulmichigancity.com

**The Good News Newsletter**: If you have an article or anything you want included in **The Good News** please send it to the following e-mail address: splcgoodnews@gmail.com. Pastor Pamela Thiede will be using this e-mail address to assemble **The Good News** each month. The deadline for getting information to Pastor Pamela will be the 20th of each month.

**Worship Attendance: March 13, March 16 and 17, 2024:**

**6:00 p.m. 26**

**4:00 p.m. 25**

**9:00 a.m. 54**

**TOTAL 105**

**LOOKING FOR IDEAS**

We’d like to continue to highlight a different mission each month. We are looking for suggestions! If you volunteer somewhere or have a mission that is close to your heart, please let Paul or Lora Brooks know so we can set up a month to support that cause! Paul: (219) 221-0254, paulbrooks@gmail.com; or Lora: (260) 701-1586, loralmartin15@gmail.com.

**March’s Local Monthly Mission will be the Service League of Michigan City.** The Service League loans medical equipment to Michigan City residents as they recuperate at home. Some of the items they loan include bathroom and safety aids, wheelchairs, and knee walkers. Residents can also go each month to pick up adult briefs and bed pads free of charge. If you wish to support this month’s mission, please place your donation in the offering plate marked for the Service League.

**ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**MARCH 2024 continued**

**Saturday,** March 23, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. Palm/Passion Saturday Worship Service

**Sunday,** March 24, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service

**Tuesday,** March 26, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday,** March 27, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. God’s Purls/St. Paul Room

 @ 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday,** March 28, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m. Senior Communion with luncheon to

 follow immediately after/St. Paul Room

**Friday,** March 29, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. Good Friday/The Passion According to St.

 John

**Saturday,** March 30, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter/The First

 Communion of Easter

**Sunday,** March 31, 2024 @9:00 a.m. The Resurrection of Our Lord

 **MESSAGE:**

**Please consider supporting the pop machine in the hallway between the kitchen and the St. Paul Room in the basement as we look to move out existing drinks and add in new ones! All pop is 75 cents and all proceeds go to the Capital Improvement Fund. We are currently working with the vendor as Mountain Dew has been stocked but the machine is saying to choose another selection. Hoping to have that issue resolved soon. Thank you for your support!**

**Paul Brooks**

**Member of Church Council**

**2024 Financial Stewardship**

Weekly Church Operating Needs (x 2 weeks): $ 14,475.00

March 9 - 10, and March 16 – 17, 2024

General Fund (including General Memorials): $ 9,385.00

Overage/Shortage: —- $ 5,090.00

Restricted Income (not including Memorials)

Supports IK Synod & Church wide Ministries: $ 158 .00

Ministries in our Community/Congregation: $ ——--

Capital Fund: $ 346.00