

**A Service of Morning Prayer**  
**April 2, 2023**  
**Passion Sunday**



**Christ before Pilate**

Painting, ~1523-1525, by Jacopo da Pontormo (1494-1556) Museo della Certosa del Galluzzo, Florence, Italy  
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Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

**CP 177 A Spendthrift Lover is the Lord**

1 A spendthrift lover is the Lord who never counts the cost  
 or asks if heaven can afford to woo a world that's lost.

Our lover tosses coins of gold across the midnight skies  
 and stokes the sun against the cold to warm us when we rise.

2 Still more is spent in blood and tears to win the human heart,  
 to overcome the violent fears that drive the world apart.

Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face of one who bears our scars  
 and empties out the wealth of grade that's hinted by the stars.

3 How shall we love this heartstrong God who gives us everything  
 whose ways to us are strange and off; what can we give or bring?

Acceptance of the matchless gift is gift enough to give  
 The very act will shake and shift the way we love and live.

Dear friends in Christ,

during Lent we have been preparing  
 for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.

On this day our Lord Jesus Christ  
 entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.

The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise,  
 but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.

Today we greet him as our King,  
 although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.

We follow him this week from the glory of the palms  
 to the glory of the resurrection

by way of the dark road of suffering and death.

United with him in his suffering on the cross,  
 may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray

Assist us mercifully with your help,  
 Lord God of our salvation,  
 that we may enter with joy  
 into the celebration of those mighty acts  
 whereby you give us life and immortality;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 And the love of God,  
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 Be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,**  
**All desires known,**  
**And from you no secrets are hidden.**  
**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.**

Psalm 31:9-16 *Refrain:* Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

31:9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

31:10 For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

31:11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

31:12 I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

31:13 For I hear the whispering of many-- terror all around!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

31:14 But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

31:15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

31:16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

A Reading from Isaiah 50:4-9a

50:4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

50:5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

50:6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

50:7 The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

50:8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

50:9a It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways.

Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to your control.

Shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christ-like graces in the fight for liberty.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail ourselves & thee, lest we fail ourselves & thee.

A Reading from Philippians 2:5-11

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

2:9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2:11 and 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.**

## CP 321 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.

2 Hail him, the heir of David's line,  
whom David Lord did call,  
the God incarnate, life divine,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
the God incarnate, life divine,  
and crown him Lord of all.

3 Crown him, you martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call;  
praise him whose way of pain you trod,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
praise him whose way of pain you trod,  
and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go, spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
go, spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let every tongue and every tribe,  
delivered from the fall,  
to Christ all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
to Christ all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.

6 O that, with heaven's sacred throng,  
we at his feet may fall,  
lift high the universal song,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
lift high the universal song,  
and crown him Lord of all.

## The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Matthew 27:11-54

27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so."

27:12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

27:13 Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

27:14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

27:15 Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

27:16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.

27:17 So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

27:18 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

27:19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

27:20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

27:21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

27:22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"

27:23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

27:24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

27:25 Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

27:26 So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.

27:28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

27:29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

27:30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

27:31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

27:32 As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

27:33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),

27:34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

27:35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;

27:36 then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

27:37 Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

27:38 Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

27:39 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads

27:40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

27:41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

27:42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.

27:43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

27:44 The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

27:45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

27:46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

27:47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah."

27:48 At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.

27:49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

27:50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

27:51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

27:52 The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

27:53 After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

27:54 Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7102399 The Passion

1 The passion of our Saviour  
The mercy of our God  
The cross that leaves no question  
Of the measure of His love

2 The Innocent judged guilty  
While the guilty one walks free  
Death would be His portion  
And our portion liberty

**Bridge**

I give my whole life to honour this love  
By the Lamb who was slain I'm forgiven  
The sinner's Saviour crown Him forever  
For the Lamb who was slain He is risen

**Tag**

Means death to death and life for me

**Chorus**  
***Our chains are gone***  
***Our debt is paid***  
***The cross has overthrown the grave***  
***For Jesus' blood that sets us free***  
***Means death to death and life for me***

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven.  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People compiled and led by Betty Johnson

On this day the Church hears again the passion of our Lord, into which we are baptized. Recreated for the mind of Christ, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, saying:

Lord, have mercy

For the whole church throughout the world, its bishops, clergy, and all the baptized.

In the worldwide cycle of prayer, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

In Canada, we pray for the Diocese of Western Newfoundland: The Rt. Rev. John Organ, Bishop.

In our Diocese of Edmonton, we pray for our Bishop Stephen, and St. Mary, Edgerton, St. Thomas, Wainwright, and St. Saviour, Vermilion (Dayspring Ministry): Rachael Parker, Rector.

In the Buyé Diocese, we pray for Mubanga Parish: Jean Bosco Nyankimbona, Rector.

We pray for the people of the Louis Bull Tribe community.

In our own parish of St. Peter's, we pray for our clergy Alison, our music ministry Nadine, and all our volunteers as we make our way through this transition period.

For all these, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For those who are preparing for baptism, and for their teachers and sponsors, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy

For peace among the nations and forbearance among all people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For this assembly as we walk the road toward the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the weary and the sick, and for those who are consumed with sorrow especially those for whom prayers are requested:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene ..... Helen.....Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill.....  
Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy,  
and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Rosemary..... Roald..... Sandy..... Luci

Let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy

We give thanks for all the departed who had the mind of Christ and were humble servants of God. For ourselves, that we may be obedient even unto death, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect

Almighty and everliving God,  
 in tender love for all our human race  
 you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
 to take our flesh  
 and suffer death upon a cruel cross.  
 May we follow the example of his great humility,  
 and share in the glory of his resurrection;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
 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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 431 Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said

1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,  
 if you would my disciple be;  
 deny yourself, the world forsake,  
 and humbly follow after me.

2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
 fill your weak soul with vain alarm;  
 his strength shall bear your spirit up,  
 and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
 and let your foolish pride be still:  
 your Lord for you endured to die  
 upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength,  
 and calmly every danger brave;  
 'twill guide you to a better home,  
 and lead to victory o'er the grave.

5 Take up your cross and follow Christ,  
 nor think till death to lay it down;  
 for only those who bear the cross  
 may hope to wear the glorious crown.



The Dismissal

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**