

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church:

To our considerable sorrow, worship remains cancelled at our church, even for this Holy Week. It is extremely important, in caring for our larger community, that we continue to observe a total absence of gathered assembly. Because we cannot meet together face-to-face, here is a resource to help us join nonetheless in shared prayer. **If you wish, use these materials at 10am on Sunday along with everyone else who can do so.** In the next days, do watch for resources to help in our common observance of Holy Week in our homes.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Gordon Lathrop

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
April 5, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home

Set out on a table in front of you a green branch, a house plant, or simply a drawing of a leaf or branch. Then speak this acclamation:

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

Then read the “Proclamation Gospel” of Palm Sunday:

Mathew 21:6-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶The disciples . . . ⁷ brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

About this reading: When in the past we have read this text in church and carried the palm branches, we were celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ coming among us as we began all the services of this Holy Week. But you may trust that Christ comes also now to your home, to be with you as you begin this week of prayer, apart from others but still together with the whole church. Blessed indeed is the One who comes!

If you have a hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, you might now read or sing:

HYMN #344 **“All Glory, Laud and Honor”**

Accompaniment is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ZL2h-AYuGeUpXU3QxedFQ>

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

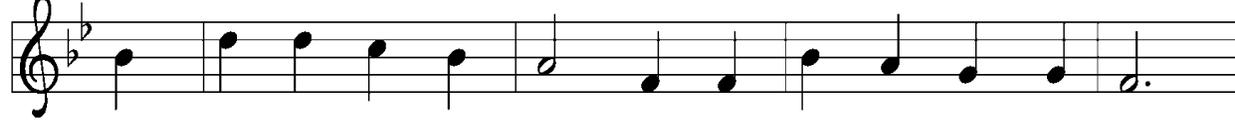
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

One Person may pray the PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer:

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 may be prayed in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ZL2hAYuGeUpX-U3QxedFQ>

- 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 am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors,
a dismay to | my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.
- ¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, | 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.
- ¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

- 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So 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?” ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While 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.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴So 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.” ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and 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!”³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.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.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ 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.”⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,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.⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.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?”⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”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.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.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.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

As the Psalm today says, fear is certainly all around. This story of the suffering of Christ powerfully fits our time, and we can recognize ourselves in the fearful crowd, if not also in the betrayers and killers. But why does God in Christ enter into such agonies? To plant hope and life and God's very self deep in all human suffering, so that from now on there is no place of hurt and sorrow where Jesus Christ is not there first. To defeat all dread and death and sin, so that we might no longer live in fear. To plant the mind of Christ in us, so that we might turn to our neighbor in love.

If you have a hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, you might now read or sing:

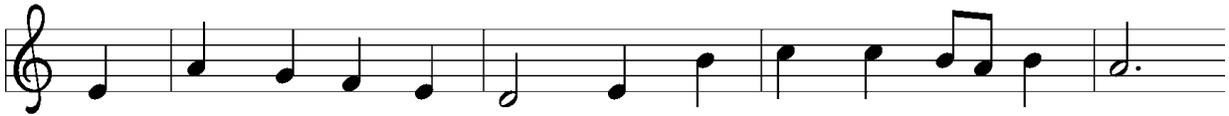
HYMN OF THE DAY: #351 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Accompaniment is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu8ZL2h-AYuGeUpXU3QxedFQ>

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Then you might pray together these prayers for our church and world:

In our separate homes but gathered together in the Spirit, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with words from one of today's psalms, **O LORD, save us.**

A brief silence.

O triune God, God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers:

for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by your presence in the word;

for pastors and bishops, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry;
for all those who are assisting the digital dissemination of worship materials;
for guidance in keeping this Holy Week in devout prayer and praise;

A brief silence.

O holy God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard;
for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected;
for scientists, that their knowledge of your earth will direct our society's choices;

A brief silence.

O creating God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

For peace through the world, especially in Syria and Afghanistan;
for an end to terrorism and religious violence;
for all elected leaders, that they see our crisis rightly and make judgments wisely;
for wisdom in distributing governmental economic aid;

A brief silence.

O mighty God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

For our distraught world facing the coronavirus;
for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain, and the United States;
for those who grieve their dead;
for the sick and their families;
for those fearful of an unknown future;
for the millions of unemployed;
for children at home, that they be safe from abuse;
for those who have been led to rely on empty remedies;
for hospitals, in their desperate need for supplies;

A brief silence.

O compassionate God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

For all who are facing the criminal justice system;
for those falsely accused of crime;
for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe;
for those who face isolation or execution;

A brief silence.

O righteous God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

For those whose needs we know, for those whose needs are hidden;
for those with prior illnesses whose treatments are now postponed;
for all who today will die;
for the homeless;
for all who are sick;
especially Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Nathan Linman, Jack Mulloy, and those we
name here;

A brief silence.

O benevolent God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

And finally, for ourselves:

A longer period of silence.

O loving God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

With thanks for the technology by which we stay connected;
with thanks for enough food;
with thanks for the support of our community of faith;
with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you,
especially those Christian artists whose work has enriched our faith,
we praise your salvation now and unto our end.

A brief silence.

O eternal God, we pray to you: **O LORD, save us.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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,
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.

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Here is one prayer you might use, morning, noon or night, to celebrate that presence:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,
And let these gifts to us be blest.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
May all the world be clothed and fed.

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists) Psalm 36:5-11. **Tuesday** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. **Wednesday** Isaiah 50:4-9a. **Maundy Thursday** (commemoration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945) John 13:1-17, 31b-35. **Good Friday** (commemoration of Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557) John 18:1—19:42. **Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter** Romans 6:3-11. **Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day** Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10 *or* John 20:1-18.