The Holy Thanksgiving of the People of God

The Great Liturgy of Holy Week at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church Lebanon, Indiana 46052

The Great Liturgy of Holy Week is a sequence of individual liturgies that make up one continuous act of worship beginning with Palm Sunday and ending at Easter with each liturgy blending into the next over the course of the week. This is why there is no blessing or benediction at the end of each liturgy until the first Easter celebration.

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The Liturgy of the Palms

The People assemble outside of the nave.

The Priest: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

The Priest: Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we

may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby

you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The People: Amen.

The Reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Blessing of the Palms

The Priest: The Lord be with you.
The People: And also with you.

The Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. The People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Priest: It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you

redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed King of kings by those who spread garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and

the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

The People: Amen.

The Palms are distributed among the people.

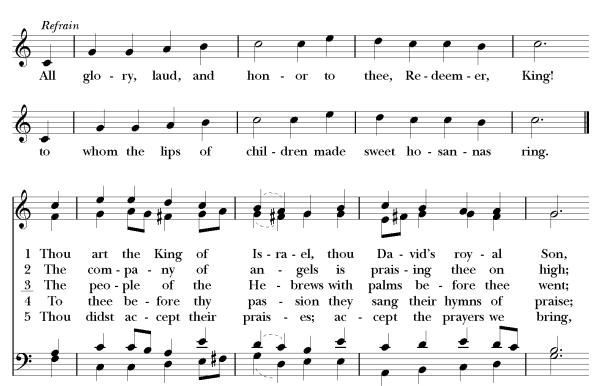
The Procession of Palms

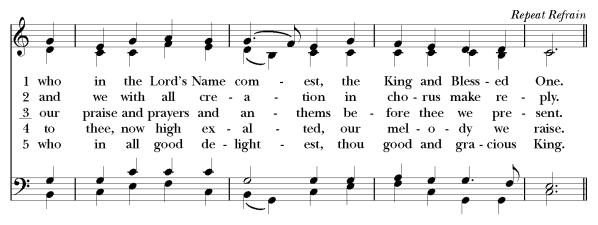
The Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

The People: In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Thou art the King of Israel

Hymnal 154





The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

The Station before the baptismal font recalls our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.

The Priest: Let us pray.

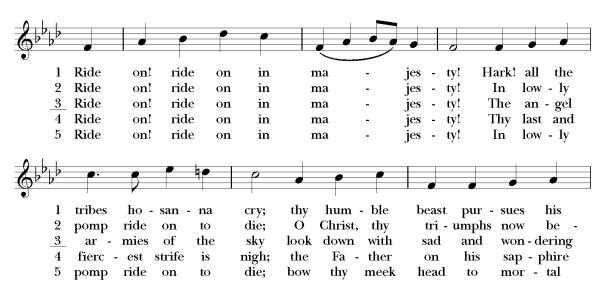
Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

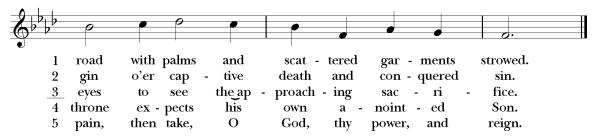
The People: Amen.

The Procession continues into the Church with the people entering their pews while singing:

Ride on! ride on in majesty

Hymnal 156





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The Holy Thanksgiving of the People of God Palm Sunday

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Our Liturgy of the Word of God

The Prayer for the Day

The Presider greets the people in Jesus Christ: The Lord be with you.

The People respond: And also with you.

The Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The People respond: Amen.

The Lessons

Isaiah 50:4-9a

First Reading

All sit.

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. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm

Remain seated.

BCP p. 760

Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Confitemini Domino

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; * his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
 "His mercy endures for ever."
- Open for me the gates of righteousness; *I will enter them;I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; * he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me * and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected * has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD's doing, * and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; * we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! * LORD, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; * we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; * form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *

you are my God, and I will exalt you."

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; * his mercy endures for ever.

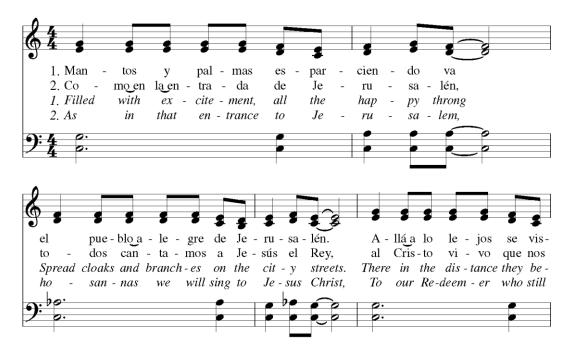
Philippians 2:5-11

Second Reading

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Our Hymn prayer to move us from these readings to the Gospel







The Passion of Our Lord according to Matthew, Mark, or Luke

All rise when indicated. It is an ancient and salutary custom to kneel in silence at the death of Christ.

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Narrator It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened

Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to

arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

C. Priest Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

Narrator While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he

sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly

ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the

ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another

in anger,

Bystndr 1 Why was the ointment wasted in this way?

Bystndr 2 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred

denarii, and the money given to the poor.

Narrator And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good

service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Narrator

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples said to him,

Disciple

Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Narrator

So Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

Jesus

Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

Narrator

So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as Jesus had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.

Narrator

They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

Disciple

Surely, not I?

Narrator

Jesus said to them,

Jesus

It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.

Narrator

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, Jesus Take; this is my body.

Narrator Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and

all of them drank from it. He said to them,

Jesus This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until

that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Narrator When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of

Olives. And Jesus said to them,

You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the

shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered," But after I am raised up,

I will go before you to Galilee.

Narrator Peter said to him,

Peter Even though all become deserters, I will not.

Narrator Jesus said to him,

Jesus Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows

twice, you will deny me three times.

Narrator But Peter said vehemently,

Peter Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator And all of the disciples said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his

disciples,

Jesus Sit here while I pray.

Narrator Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be

distressed and agitated. And he said to the three disciples,

Jesus I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

Narrator And going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and

prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from

me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

Narrator Jesus came and found the disciples sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep

awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the

spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Narrator And again Jesus went away and prayed, saying the same words.

And once more he came and found the disciples sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

Jesus came a third time and said to them,

Jesus Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has

come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up,

let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Narrator Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the

twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the

betrayer had given the crowd a sign, saying,

Judas The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under

guard.

Narrator So when Judas came, he went up to Jesus at once and said,

Judas Rabbi!

Narrator and kissed him. Then the crowd laid hands on Jesus and arrested

him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the

slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I

were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching,

and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

Narrator All of Jesus' followers deserted him and fled. A certain young man

was following Jesus, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. The crowd caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed Jesus at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against Jesus, saying,

We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."

Narrator But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

H. Priest Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Narrator But Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

H. Priest Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Narrator Jesus said,

Jesus I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power," and "coming with the clouds of heaven."

Narrator Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?

Narrator The whole council condemned Jesus as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Council Prophesy!

Narrator The guards also took Jesus over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she

stared at him and said,

Servant You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

Narrator But Peter denied it, saying,

Peter I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

Narrator And Peter went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And

the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the

bystanders,

Servant This man is one of them.

Narrator But again Peter denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders

again said to Peter,

Bystndr 1 Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

Narrator But Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter I do not know this man you are talking about.

Narrator At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter

remembered that Jesus had said to him,

Jesus Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Narrator And Peter broke down and wept.

[*Mark* 15:1-39, (40-47)]

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led

him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator Jesus answered him.

Jesus You say so.

Narrator Then the chief priests accused Jesus of many things. Pilate asked

him again,

Pilate Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against

you.

Narrator But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for

them according to his custom. Then Pilate answered them,

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Narrator For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had

handed Jesus over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have

Pilate release Barabbas for them instead.

Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of

the Jews?

Narrator The crowd shouted back,

Crowd Crucify him!

Narrator Pilate asked them.

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator But they shouted all the more,

Crowd Crucify him!

Narrator So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them;

and after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed Jesus in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him saying,

Soldier

Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The soldiers compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry Jesus' cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then the soldiers brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

All stand.

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And the soldiers crucified Jesus, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Jesus. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews," And with Jesus they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided Jesus, shaking their heads and saying,

Passer-by

Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

Narrator

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking Jesus among themselves and saying,

C. Priest

He saved others; he cannot save himself.

Scribe

Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Narrator

Those who were crucified with Jesus also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Narrator which means,

Jesus My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystndr 1 Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

Narrator And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick,

and gave it to Jesus to drink, saying,

Bystndr 2 Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Narrator Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Silence may be kept.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way Jesus breathed his last, he said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son!

Narrator There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow Jesus and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women

who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if Jesus were already dead; and summoning

the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus had been dead for some time. When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he granted the body to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Joseph then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.
Silence
I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.
Silence
I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison Pray for those in any need or trouble.
Silence
I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.
Silence
I ask your prayers for the departed [especially]. Pray for those who have died.
Silence

[Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present
I ask your prayers for I ask your thanksgiving for
Silence]
Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especiallywhom we remember today]. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.
Silence
For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the

All rise as they are able.

Our Sharing the Peace of Jesus Christ

power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

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

The People respond: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord making peace with one another before bringing their gifts to the altar.

Our Announcements gather the life, concerns, and events of this community into our worship.

Our Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Offering of Our Lives and of Our Gifts back to God

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or Presider of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, as we offer our lives back to God in faith and in faithful life and work.

The people stand while the offerings are gathered and placed on the Altar and sing:

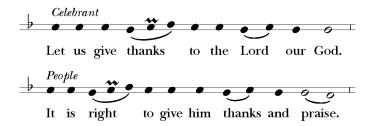
The Offering Hymn *See insert for hymn number.*



Our Great Thanksgiving Prayer to God

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings:

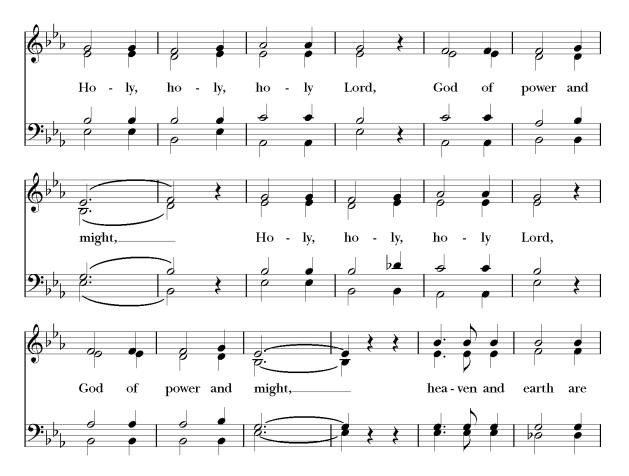




It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All sing or say:

The "Holy, Holy, Holy" from Isaiah 6:3





All kneel as they are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: Presider and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The People: AMEN.

The Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,

All say:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then may be said the Fraction Anthem.

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: *Have mercy upon us.*

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: *Have mercy upon us.*

The Presider: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Give us peace.

The Presider says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to come to our Lord's table for a blessing. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the blessing of communion. Others may come forward for a blessing from the priest indicating this by crossing their arms over their chest.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The People respond: Amen.

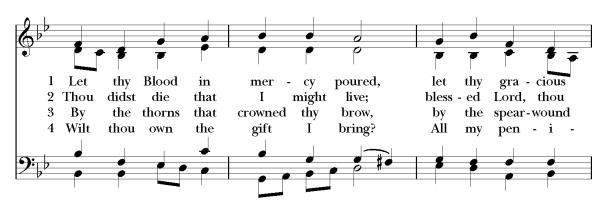
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

The People respond: Amen.

The Communion Hymn

Let thy Blood in mercy poured

Hymnal 313





A Lenten Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and everliving God, you bid your faithful people cleanse our hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, we may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. And so, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Recessional Hymn See insert for number.



A Prayer for Those who have now entered into Holy Week

The Priest: Almighty God, give to us your servants strength of faith and courage of heart to follow Jesus, your dear Son, through these coming days which end with washing the feet of his friends, with giving himself in a final meal, with betrayal, suffering and death; that we might ever claim his as our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

The People: Amen.

All depart the Church in silence as this liturgy continues during Holy Week

