

## THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Gather in the Fellowship Hall

*P:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### C: And also with you.

P: Our forty days of Lent are coming to an end.

**C:** For forty days and forty nights the rain fell on the earth while Noah, the family and the animals floated in the ark to safety.

*P:* We have heard that after Jesus came down from the mountain of His Transfiguration, He turned his face toward Jerusalem, The Way of the Cross, The Way God had set Jesus on for our salvation.

**C:** For forty days Moses waited on the mountaintop before receiving the Ten Commandments from the hand of God.

*P: Jesus commissioned His disciples and sent them out ahead of Him to proclaim the Good News and to prepare His way.* 

C: For forty years God led the Israelites, the Chosen People, through the Wilderness to the Promised Land.

*P:* The Jewish Religious Leaders tried to turn Jesus away from The Way of the Cross.

**C:** For forty days our Lord fasted in the wilderness before He was tempted by the devil and prevailed in faithfulness.

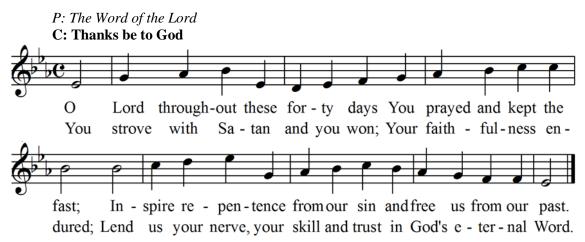
*P:* Yet, all along The Way, Jesus has remained focused on the Father's plan and faithful to The Way the Father has set for Him.

C: In these last hours of our forty day fast, we ask God to narrow our focus on God's plan for us and embolden our faithfulness to The Way we are called to follow.

P: Listen for the Word of the Lord according to the Gospel of Luke:

Then Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them, See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again. But, they could not put this together in their minds because understanding was being hidden from them by God -

so they did not know.



#### P: Listen for the Word of the Lord according to the Gospel of Luke:

A s Jesus approached the town of Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When the blind man heard a crowd going by he asked what was happening. The crowd told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

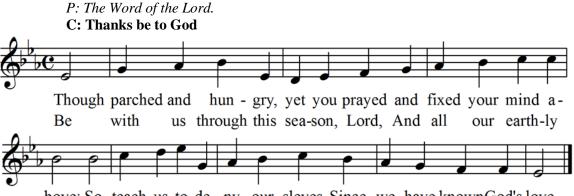
Then the blind man cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those in the crowd who were in front of the blind man rebuked him to be quiet; but the blind man shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

This stopped Jesus and Jesus ordered the man to be brought to him. And when the blind man came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Lord, restore my sight."

Jesus said to him, "Your sight is restored. Your faith has saved you."

Immediately the blind man's sight was restored and he followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, praised God.



bove; So teach us to de - ny our-sleves Since we have knownGod's love. days, That when the fi-nal Eas-ter dawns We join in heav - en's praise. P: Listen for the Word of the Lord according to the Gospel of Luke:

When Jesus had come near the towns of Bethpage and Bethany, at the place called "The Mount of Olives," Jesus sent two of the disciples ahead, saying, "Go into the village. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there 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 went and found it just as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" The disciples said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus. After throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

*P: The Word of the Lord.* **C: Thanks be to God** 

## *P: The Lord be with you.* **C: And also with you**

P: Let us raise our palm branches for blessing.

We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you save us through your Son, Jesus, the Christ. On this day He entered the Holy City of Jerusalem like a King, in triumph and glory, hailed by His disciples who laid cloaks on the road to honor His coming. We ask that you bless these branches of palm that we now raise in His honor. Fill us with the Spirit that filled those disciples on this day, so we will ever proclaim peace and glory in His name. Awaken our commitment to follow Him wherever He leads and on whatever journey He will take us. May His coming among us here be as much a blessing to us as it was to Your people in the Holy City long ago. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

- *P:* And those leading and those following Jesus were shouting,
- C: "Hosanna! Blessings for one coming in the name of the Lord! [Ps 118:26] Blessings for the coming now of the kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!"



### Prayer of the Day

- *P: The Lord be with you.*
- C: And also with you
- P: Let us pray.
- C: Almighty God we give you thanks that your Son remained faithful to the journey you set before Him, even when He knew His destiny was not the glory offered by the crowds, but the solitude of the cross. Keep us ever faithful in the way you have set before us, that in the end, we will enter into the eternal glory of Your Holy City where you reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

#### Psalm

**Psalm 118** 

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;* **his steadfast love endures forever!** 

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me?

The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord* **than to put confidence in mortals.** 

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord* **than to put confidence in princes.** 

All nations surrounded me; in the name of the Lord I cut them off! They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

They surrounded me like bees; they blazed like a fire of thorns; in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

*I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,* **but the Lord helped me.** 

*The Lord is my strength and my might;* **he has become my salvation.** 

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

*I shall not die, but I shall live,* and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

#### This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

## The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

*This is the Lord's doing;* **it is marvelous in our eyes.** 

*This is the day that the Lord has made;* **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** 

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

## The Lesson

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and God has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

*O* give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

#### 1 Samuel 5:1-10

Then the prophet Elisha called a member of the company of prophets and said to him, "Gird up your loins; take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. When you arrive, look there for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi; go in and get him to leave his companions, and take him into an inner chamber. Then take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and say, "Thus says the Lord: 'I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and flee; do not linger." So the young man, the young prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead.

He arrived while the commanders of the army were in council, and he announced, "I have a message for you, commander."

"For which one of us?" asked Jehu.

"For you, commander."

So Jehu got up and went inside; the young man poured the oil on his head, saying to him, "Thus says the Lord the God of Israel: I anoint you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel . . ." Then he opened the door and fled.

When Jehu came back to his master's officers, they said to him, "Is everything all right? Why did that madman come to you?"

He answered them, "You know the sort and how they babble."

They said, "Liar! Come on, tell us!"

So he said, "This is just what he said to me: 'Thus says the Lord, I anoint you king over Israel.'" Then hurriedly they all took their cloaks and spread them for him on the bare steps; and they blew the trumpet, and proclaimed, "Jehu is king." Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, your road pursue,
with palms and scattered garments strewed.

2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!In lowly pomp ride on to die.O Christ, your triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin. 3. Ride on, ride on in majesty! The hosts of angels in the sky look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

4. Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mortal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.* **C: Glory to you O Lord** 

#### <u>Gospel</u>

#### Luke 19:41-48

And as Jesus came near and saw Jerusalem, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there. And he said, "It is written,

'My house shall be a house of prayer'; [Isaiah 56:7] but you have made it a den of robbers. ''' [Jeremiah 7:11]

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people hung upon him, listening.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

[tune: 351]

Rejoice, O Zion's daughter, and greet your promised king. Spread branches in his pathway and loud Hosannas sing! He comes astride a donkey in deep humility To claim God's coming kingdom, of truth and equity. O Christ, though king they hailed you, they sent you out to die, For soon the songs of praises were drowned by "Crucify!" They stripped away your garments, they made a cross your throne, And there you died in darkness, abandoned and alone.

But still you come among us in cities built with pride. You walk the streets of sorrow where hate and greed divide. Redeem us from our madness, the clash of class and race. Establish soon your kingdom of justice, truth and grace.

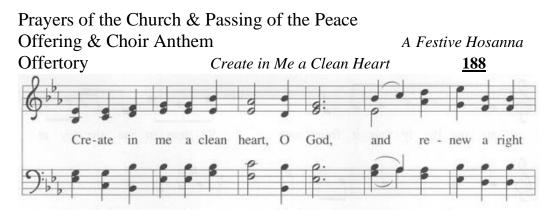
We shout again, "Hosanna!" we hail you as our king! Christ, stir our wills to action to match the praise we sing. Send us where truth is threatened where justice is denied, And move our hearts to offer the love for which you died.

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.





#### A: Let us Pray

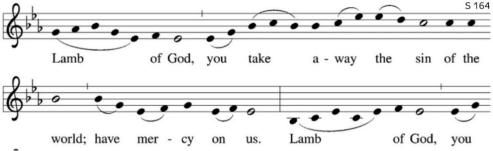
C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen

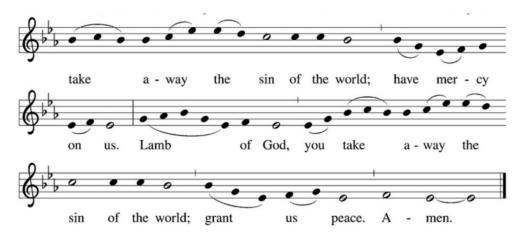
Great Thanksgiving



*P:* Holy God, we give you thanks and praise, for even in the midst of our turning away from you, you call to us...







### Post Communion Blessing

## The Passion of Our Lord According to the Gospel of Luke

| Narrator | Female Servant  | Pilate     | The Council |
|----------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Jesus    | Male Servant #1 | Criminal 1 |             |
| Peter    | Male Servant #2 | Criminal 2 |             |
| John     | Soldiers        | Centurion  |             |

Narrator: Every day Jesus was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

### The Last Supper

- Narrator: Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might hand him over to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to hand him over to them when no crowd was present. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,
- Jesus: Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.

John & Peter: Where do you want us to make preparations for it?

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

| Narrator:  | So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover  |
|------------|--|
|            | meal. When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.   |
| Jesus:     | I have a great longing to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will<br>not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Take this cup and divide it among<br>yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until<br>the kingdom of God comes.  |
| Narrator:  | And he took bread, thanked, broke, and gave, saying,   |
| Jesus:     | This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for my remembrance.   |
| Narrative: | And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,   |
| Jesus:     | This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the one who hands me over is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but my heart is heavy for that man by whom he is handed over!  |
| Narrator:  | Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.<br>A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the<br>greatest.   |
| Jesus:     | The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors, but it is not so with you. Rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But, I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. |
| Peter:     | Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!  |

Jesus: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me. When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

Peter & John: No, not a thing.

Jesus: But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and, likewise, those with a bag must take it, too. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, '*And he was counted among the lawless*'; [Is 53:12] and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

Peter & John: Lord, behold, here are two swords.

Jesus: It is enough.

## The Arrest

| Narrator:  | Jesus came out of the place where they were dining and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples followed him. When he reached the place he said to them,                     |  |
|--|--|--|
| Jesus:   | Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.   |  |
| Narrator:  | Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,  |  |
| Jesus:   | Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Yet, not my will, but yours be done!  |  |
| Narrator:  | When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief.   |  |
| Jesus:   | Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.  |  |
| Narrator:  | While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.  |  |
| Jesus:   | Judas, is it with a kiss that you are handing over the Son of Man?   |  |
| Narrator:  | When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,  |  |
| John & Peter: Lord, should we strike with the sword? |  |  |
| Narrator:  | Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.  |  |
| Jesus:   | No more of this!   |  |
| Narrator:  | And Jesus touched his ear and healed him.  |  |
| Jesus:   | Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But, this is your hour and the authority of darkness! |  |
| Narrator:  | Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.  |  |
|  |  |  |

## The Jewish Trial

Narrator: Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him.

Female Servant: This man also was with him.

Peter: Woman, I do not know him.

Male Servant 1: You also are one of them.

Peter: Man, I am not!

Male Servant 2: Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Peter: Man, I do not know what you are talking about!

- Narrator: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words of the Lord, how he had said to him, "before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him.
- Soldiers: Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?
- Narrator: They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they led away him to their council.

#### Congregation: If you are the Messiah, tell us.

- Jesus: If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.
- Council: Are you, then, the Son of God?

Jesus: You say that I am.

# Congregation: What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

### The Roman Trial

Narrator: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.

# Congregation: We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding the paying of taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Pilate: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

# Congregation: He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.

Pilate: Is this man a Galilean?

#### **Congregation: Yes!**

Pilate: Then he is under the jurisdiction of your King Herod. Take this man to him for judgment.

- Narrator: Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had wanted to see him for a long time. Herod had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. Herod questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then Herod put an elegant robe on Jesus, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people.
- Pilate: You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people, and now I have examined him in your presence and I have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

#### Congregation: Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!

Narrator: Barabbas was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting . . .

#### Congregation: Crucify him! Crucify him!

- Pilate: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death. I will, therefore, have him flogged and then release him.
- Narrator: But they raised great voices, asking for him to be crucified. And their voices prevailed. And Pilate gave his verdict that their request should be granted. And he released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, but he handed Jesus over to their will.

### On the Way to the Cross

- Narrator: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.
- Jesus: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?
- Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

#### The Crucifixion

Narrator: When they came to the place that is called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching.

# Congregation: He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

- Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine.
- Soldiers: If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!
- Narrator: There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who was hanging there blasphemed him saying . . .
- Criminal 1: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!
- Narrator: But the other rebuked him saying . . .
- Criminal 2: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
- Jesus: Truly I tell you this day, you will be with me in Paradise.
- Narrator: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus having called out in a great voice said . . .
- Jesus: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. [Psalm 31:5]
- Narrator: And saying this, he breathed his last.

#### (silence for a time)

- Narrator: Behold, when the centurion saw what had taken place he praised God and said,
- Centurion: Certainly this man was innocent.
- Narrator: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

### An Honorable Burial

Narrator: Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of

Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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#### **Recessional Hymn**



## Holy Week Continues

Wednesday Evening Prayer7:00 p.m.Maundy Thursday<br/>Laying of Hands for AbsolutionNoon & 7:00 p.m.EucharistKeucharist

Good Friday Seven Last Words Tenebrae Noon Passion, Readings & Sealing 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m. Service of Light & Readings & Eucharist

Easter Day Festival of the Resurrection 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## **Our Palms come from ECO-PALMS**

Harvesting palm products is an important source of supplemental income for many indigenous families and communities in Guatemala and Mexico. However, over-harvesting palm can threaten the livelihood of these communities as well as the forests where the palm plants thrive and provide the shade required by the palms. The palm producing areas tend to be the home of poorer segments of the rural population where the people really heavily on the palm harvest for income. But, although purchases of palms in the U.S. may reach as high as \$4.5 million each year, the palm harvesters themselves earn very little. Typically, palm harvesting is done by community members hired by local contractors, who then sell palms to large floral export firms. Payment is based on volume so the harvesters are motivated to gather a large number of palms without regard for the quality. As a result, up to 50% or more of the palms are later discarded because of poor quality. This method risks the rapid depletion of the forest's rich biodiversity, including the many bird species that migrate to these regions during the winter. Called *Eco-Palms*, the palms are harvested in a more sustainable way, whereby the harvesters are paid on the quality of the palms they harvest rather than the quantity, which helps to limit the amount of palms taken from the forest. These communities have taken upon themselves to learn about harvesting practices that minimize impact on the natural forest where the palm grows, and ways to protect this wild species of palm. In some areas where the waste ratio reached as high as 50% before, now the discarded palms count for only 5-7% of the harvested volume. And, rather than sending the harvested palms off to a distant warehouse for sorting and packaging, the community members complete those tasks themselves and sell their palms directly rather than relying on middlemen-ensuring that more of the money paid for the palms actually goes to those who worked the hardest to provide them. Eco-Palms protect the unique and important biodiversity of the region and maintain the local communities' standard of living.

Palms are dedicated by Carol Straub in loving memory of Walter Straub, and by Marlene Sabanosh, in loving memory of Roger Sabanosh.