

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Friends in Christ: For the five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's suffering and death. Today, together with the whole church, we begin this holy week by welcoming our Messiah. So, like the people of long ago, let us welcome Jesus and follow him to the cross.

Let us pray. Lord, as we remember how Christ the King entered Jerusalem to the sound of joyful shouts, increase our faith and listen to our prayers, so that we may praise you every day, by living always in him. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.
Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to you all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased you and deserve your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask you, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart:
Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?
I do.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins,

and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

I do.

Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

I do.

Upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray for humility.

Loving Father of all, your only Son came as a servant and was obedient all the way to his death on the cross. Make us humble like Christ, and bring us to be with him in his glory. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me!

It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16

Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbours and an object of dread to my closest friends— those who see me on the street flee from me.

I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.

For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!”

They conspire against me and plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

The Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ

Sermon (please see ‘**Sermon**’ page)

We confess our faith- The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Offering Prayer

Thank you, loving Father, that your Son was obedient all the way to the cross, and suffered and died for us. Make us humble and self-giving, serving others as he served us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus willingly submitted to suffer in our place. Let us pray to God our Father, and place in his hands the suffering of the world.

Heavenly Father: we pray for your church on earth, that all Christians may bear their cross and follow Jesus. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have no faith, like the crowds. Bless the witness of your church this holy week that the word of your Son's death and resurrection may be clearly portrayed before the world. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have sinned, like Peter. Teach us to be sorry for our sins, and forgive us for Jesus' sake. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for prisoners and criminals like Barabbas. May they find true freedom by changing the way they live. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for people in government, like Pilate. May they be responsible and serve truth and justice. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are dying, like the thieves who died with Jesus. May they die with Jesus by their side, and be received into your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for parents like Mary who have lost a child. May they bear their suffering and know the comfort of your love. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for the whole human race, that we may all come to know Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all those who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, so that, as we suffer with Jesus, we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, bring healing and comfort for people around the world suffering from Coronavirus COVID-19. Speed their recovery and slow the spread of the virus. We thank you for the efforts of all those involved in treating, testing and caring for patients, and ask your protection over them as they go about their work. Give wisdom to governments around the world as they manage this outbreak. We ask for your peace when we are tempted to panic or become anxious about this disease. Help us to place our trust in you, knowing that our life is safely hidden in you and that you are the Lord of all creation. Enable us to show your love to others, sharing the hope we have in you, praying and caring for the sick and needy as best we can in the name of Christ. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

God blesses us

May Christ our crucified Saviour draw you to himself, so that you may find in him the assurance of sins forgiven and the gift of eternal life;

Go in peace and have the same humble attitude as our Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

Amen.