

Dear Saint Thomas Family,

The passage below is found in Joan Chittister's reflection, 'The Liturgical Year,' and describe the journey we take together when recalling Jesus' path to and through the cross. It is offered here for your consideration and meditation.

Yours in Christ,

Julie +

Holy Week, the seven days before the feast of Easter, from Palm Sunday morning to Holy Saturday night, is charged with meaning. It is a microcosm of Jesus' public life seen in bas-relief. All of its components are there - the population at large, the temple priests and their concern for orthodoxy, the prophetic words of Jesus and the political concerns of Roman officials for the social upheavals they feared could come from them, the arrest and isolation of Jesus, and the fears and confusion of His followers. Condensed into one week, all these elements in the life of Jesus are laid bare for all to see. It is a dark week, a week heavy with the intensity of the drama among them.

But it is also a week of two distinct parts. Palm Sunday - called also Passion Sunday, to signal the full reading of the Passion narratives in the Scriptures - provides the framework of the week. It reminds us that at the moment of what seems to be the height of Jesus' public acceptance also begins the process of His public abandonment. Only in the mind of God is Jesus any longer a success, it seems. It is the contrast between the laws of the world and the law of God that dooms Him. On Palm Sunday, we are forced to remember the distance between apparent public success and personal commitment. Jesus stays the course to the end, we see, and so must we, despite all other pressures, both internal and social, to the contrary. Here in the Passion narrative, we trace the struggle, one scene at a time, between the Word of God and the ways of the world.

We see all the forces of evil collude and collide. We watch as Jesus, caught in the grip of religious and political agendas, goes on speaking out, doing good, regardless. No political spin here.

Jesus will die, yes, but not only. There is more than death to come.

We are here to grow to full spiritual stature 'a little less than the angels' the psalmist calls us (Psalm 8:6). We are here to rip away the veil that separates the here and there, to glimpse the difference between what is and from whence it came, to be signs of the Light ourselves.

Easter is the feast of Resurrection, of the redemption of life from the abyss of nothingness to the pinnacle of creation. This is the feast that reminds us - invites us - to make the passage from one kind of man existence to another that returns us to the divine.



Easter Day

April 12, 2020 Nine o'clock in the morning

Please join us via Zoom.

If you need the Meeting ID and Password, please contact Mother Julie at 310 625 9377.

Festal Celebration with Ante-Communion and Holy Eucharist Options

Our worship this morning will follow the format of the Holy Eucharist through the Confession and Absolution. For those who would like to continue to 'fast' from Communion until we are able to be together for worship, there will be a prayer acknowledging the way we are bound by spiritual communion, though we are not sharing the Body and Blood of Christ at our common altar.

Then, we will share the Peace.

For those who wish to participate in a virtual Eucharist, using bread and wine (or whatever similar items you have available) at home, the service will continue with those prayers.

The several weeks we have been unable to gather as a congregation have been both challenge and opportunity as we have pondered what it means to make sacrifice, and felt keen hunger for those things that bring us comfort. Offering options for both continued fasting and a form of Communion feels like the right way forward - please do what feels most right for you.

And, feel free to change your mind! These are days of adapting and being flexible as our patterns change and we find ourselves stretching in new directions.

For Father David and myself, who are honored to serve as your clergy in this time,



We invite you to gather some supplies for Easter worship: candles, bells, flowers, bread and wine if you want to participate in virtual Eucharist, Easter eggs, and the fanciest Easter bonnet you can find!

If you have candles nearby, please light them!

Opening Music

The Word of God

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in excelsis - *if you have bells in your house, please ring them, and let's sing out!*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Blessing of Paschal Candlelight, Flowers, and Easter Eggs



God of Creation, You brought new life to the world in Jesus Christ. Let each bright candle, blooming flower, and decorated egg found this day represent a promise of new life and hope in you. May all who seek you find their lives overflowing with blessings, this Easter and always. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Lector A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (10:34-43)

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *Confitemini Domino Read responsively by half-verse*

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

Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."

The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

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

On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Epistle

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians. (3:1-4)

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.



People **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Offering

The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (20:1-18)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Sermon

Musical Offering



The Nicene Creed *All standing as they desire, or are able.*

**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

Coronavirus Litany

[Adapted from 'A Coronavirus Prayer' by Kerry Webber]

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global pandemic of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with all those who have been quarantined or restricted in their movements. Grant them patience, health and reassurance during their time of isolation and waiting. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with those whose livelihoods or finances are or will be negatively affected by this virus. Help them find the resources they need to take care of themselves and their families. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with our elderly, vulnerable, and immunocompromised. Help us to be mindful and vigilant of their vulnerabilities; and guide us to avoid carelessness so that they may remain whole. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with the homeless in our neighborhood and across our planet. May they be shown kindness and care in this time of fear and insecurity. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with those who feel overwhelmed by the torrent of media coverage and information. Help them to discern what is important to know and what to set aside. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at eternal rest with you. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Be with our local, state, national and world leaders. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of all they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for and deal with outbreaks and its challenges. Above all, give them the courage to work together for the greater good. Let us pray to the Lord : **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Whether we are at home, or in the community; surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, give us courage to hope for better times. Help us to be vigilant and generous. Make us courageous to continue to be your hands in our community. Teach us to pray honestly and expectantly, and when our prayers seem to fail, bring us to pray again and again; for you are our help and our shield, through our Savior Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Announcements

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**



The People and Ministers may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Musical Offering

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant prays

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

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 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Celebrant invites the people to join in the Lord's Prayer, saying
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept as the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Host.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People pray together

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food,
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

May God, who has brought us out of bandage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



Musical Offering

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Risen Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Musical Offering

Easter Flowers are given by

Elena Gimpel

Mabel Kessler

Jackie & Cary Klippert

Dedication for Ray & Mimi Klippert

Tony & Anna Buccola

Dolly Fish

Andrea & Bill Liesman

In thanksgiving for all those in the Ragsdale and Liesman Families

In celebration of Bill's 70th Birthday

Denise & Peter Mandery

Ana & Phil Miwok

In thanksgiving for God's bounty and mercy

In loving memory of those forever in our hearts

Virginia & Joel Patton

In Honor of Family and Loved Ones Remembered

Julie Pavlov's

Kay & Ed Rather

In memory of our parents

In memory of our friends and loved ones

Roland Steele

Additional dedications will be noted as received.

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Temecula

Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

The Right Reverend Susan Brown Snook, *Bishop*