
St. John's Messenger

O U R I S H N G F
N S E R V I N T A
G H

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“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1Cor 1:3)!

As we enter into Holy Week, we focus on the love of Jesus who suffered, died, and rose again, laying down his life for all the world!

Amid the uncertainties and stresses of this difficult time, I hope that you will take the time this week to engage in the events of Holy Week, experience what

Jesus has done for us, and consider the ways in which we fulfill our call to lay down our lives for one another as he laid down his life for us (1John 3:16).

As we continue to worship virtually, your leaders are working very hard so that we can experience community worship together. We have been learning new technologies each week to enhance the online worship format. However, we know that not everyone has access to online worship and so included in today's messenger is an Worship Guide for Holy Week that you can use in your homes. Although we do not know yet when we will be able to gather together in one place, but we do know that it will be a great day! We will celebrate, lament, and give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Until then, I pray for each one of you and your loved ones, that you remain safe and healthy and that the Holy Spirit sustains your hope in Christ Jesus!

We also cannot forget that we are the church and are called to care for people in need. With that in mind, we encourage you to communicate with us in the event that you or your family becomes ill or if you are in need of things and do not have access to them. We can assist with getting things to you and including you in our prayers! Unfortunately many of the facilities where our folks reside are not allowing visitations currently, but I will be keeping in touch with phone calls.

We will continue to be church together even when we are in separate locations. I have been posting reflections and Bill has been posting beautiful music regularly on our Facebook page at *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Additionally, we have been videotaping Sunday Worship Services and posting them to both the Facebook page and on our website <http://www.stjohnslutherannorry.org>. May the love of Christ sustain you, suppress your fear, and fill you with hope!

Blessings,

Karla

Vicar Karla S. Leiby
Cell (570)854-3919

Holy Week at Home

If a bunch of faith at home ideas for Holy Week is not what you need this week as you navigate connecting with God in new ways, read no further! Trust your instincts. Do what feels right.

During Holy Week

*Set up a sacred space in your home. Possible items: table cloth, candles, cross, Holy images, scripture cards, Bible.

*Email pictures to sjelc300@ptd.net to be posted on our Facebook Page.



An Artistic Holy Week

Select an appropriate scripture reading for each day of Holy Week and create an artistic representation of the story. You could use paper & crayon, playdough, blocks, or Legos.



Maundy Thursday

*[Stripping the Table](#) - “Stripping the Altar” is an ancient custom of the Church. To do this at home, pick a table and remove all objects. Wash the table. The table could be your home altar.

*[Footwashing](#) - Jesus washed the feet of his friends as an act of love, service, and preparation. Take turns washing one another’s feet. Or, wash your hands using this prayer:

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Good Friday

*[Fast from technology](#) from 12:00 to 3:00pm (or from noon on Friday-noon on Saturday).

*Meditate on the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday

*Read or listen to the traditional Holy Saturday anthem “[In the midst of death](#)” and spend some time in silence.

*Dye Easter eggs. The wax crayon method ties in with the waiting of Holy Saturday.

Easter Day

*Watch the sunrise, the movement from darkness into light. Here are some readings for a [Sunrise Easter Breakfast](#):

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18



Worship in the Home

The Three Days: Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020



Set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. Sit with them before you and begin with these texts. First, remember God's forgiveness:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
Amen.

Then pray the prayer for this night:

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The readings for Maundy Thursday may be read, as follows.

First Reading Exodus 12:1–14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute

judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 may be sung or spoken.*

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication, ²for the Lord has given ear to me Whenever I called. ¹²How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me? ¹³I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people. ¹⁵Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants. ¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people, ¹⁹in the courts of the Lord 's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

Gospel John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

^{31b}“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection

Having read these readings, think of this:

This word about the love of Jesus is always the beginning of any time. By remembering the Passover and the Last Supper and the footwashing, we are not trying to get back to an old time. In the face of the suffering and death with which the world is filled, our trying would not come to much. But God’s word comes to us now. To our time. Even when we cannot meet for the holy supper together, this word — which takes these three nights to say — comes to us: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness. He is the Lamb whose blood marks the doors of our houses and bodies. In the power of the Spirit, he has washed our feet and our lives. And he turns us toward our neighbors. In this word — and in the cross proclaimed tomorrow and the resurrection proclaimed on Saturday night — Easter comes out to hold us already.

If you have a hymnal, you might now sing or read “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 358), “Where True Charity and Love Abide,” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 653) or “A New Commandment” (see graphic below)

[Where True Charity and Love Abide](#)

[A New Commandment](#)

Here you may wash your own feet or hands, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. Or, if there are several of you worshipping together, you may wash each other’s hands or feet, thinking of the love of Jesus poured out on each of us in this difficult time. If you choose to do as we do in church and wash each other’s feet, you would need a pitcher, basin, and towel. In washing you hold the heel, pour the water, and dry the foot. Please note that this action may be entirely omitted, especially if someone in your house has tested positive for the virus.

Prayers of Intercession

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, responding to each petition with the words, “**Your mercy is great.**”

A brief silence.

Blessed are you, holy God, for the church. Gather all the baptized around your presence in the Word. Strengthen the body of your people even when we cannot assemble for worship. Grant bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all worship leaders faithfulness and creativity for their ministry in this time, and accompany those preparing for baptism.

A brief silence.

Hear us, holy God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, bountiful God, for this good earth and for the flowering of springtime. Save dry lands from destructive droughts. Protect the waters from pollution. Allow in this time the planting of fields for food. Make us into care-givers of your plants and animals.

A brief silence.

Hear us, bountiful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God, for our nation. Inspire all people to live in peace and concord. Grant wisdom and courage to heads of state and to legislators as they face the coronavirus. Lead our elected officials to champion the cause of the needy.

A brief silence.

Hear us, sovereign God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, faithful God, for you accompany suffering humanity with love. Abide wherever the coronavirus has struck. Visit all who mourn their dead; all who have contracted the virus; those who are quarantined or stranded away from home; those who have lost their employment; those who fear the present and the future. Support physicians, nurses, and home health aides; medical researchers; and the World Health Organization.

A brief silence.

Hear us, faithful God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, for you care for the needy. We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying (*especially*).

A brief silence.

Hear us, gracious God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, loving God, that your Son knelt before us, your unworthy servants. Preserve our lives, comfort our anxiety, and receive now the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, loving God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed are you, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith, especially the martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom we commemorate today, and those whom we name before you here.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us with them into your everlasting glory.

Hear us, eternal God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever.

Amen.

Finally, remembering Jesus going to his arrest and his death, the events from which all the mercy that fills this night flows, pray this Psalm.

Psalm *Psalm 88 may be sung or spoken.*

¹ O LORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

² let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.

³ For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, ⁵ like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶ You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? ¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? ¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

¹³ But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴ O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate. ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.

¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸ You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

The Three Days continue tomorrow with the service for [Good Friday](#).

Worship in the Home

The Three Days: Good Friday April 10, 2020



Sit before a cross or a crucifix.

Begin with this prayer.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Then the readings for Good Friday may be read, as follows.

First Reading Isaiah 52:13—53:12

^{52:13}See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him — so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals — ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

^{53:2}For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have

imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done

no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his

days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 22 may be sung or spoken.*

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest. ³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. ⁶But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads. ⁸“Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.” ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me

forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother’s breast. ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb. ¹¹Be not far from me, for

trouble is near, and there is no one to help. ¹²Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. ¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion. ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death. ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat. ¹⁸They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots. ¹⁹But you, O Lord, be not far away; O my help, hasten ^l to my aid. ²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me. ²²I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. ²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel. ²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden from them; ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord. ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God. ²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord. ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come. ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Gospel: John 18:1 — 19:42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{18:1}[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the

Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection

Having read these readings, think of this:

Jesus Christ is a root out of dry ground. By his wounds we are healed. These paradoxes of Isaiah are echoed in the account in John about his death: he is arrested, yet when he speaks the soldiers

fall down; he is tried, yet he is King and Son of God and The Man; he is thirsty and dying, yet he is the source of the Spirit and of water and blood to heal us; finally he is buried, but it is in a garden. All of this means to tell us that God shares our sorrow and need and death and yet transforms it to life and salvation and hope. More than just a root out of dry ground, his cross is the great tree of life in which we all may shelter. You may shelter there today. And all those things in all the world that we pray for today, God holds together in him.

If you have a hymnal you might now sing or read "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 803) or "Were You There." (Evangelical Lutheran Worship ELW 353)

The Bidding Prayer

After each bid, keep silence.

Dear members of God's family:

we pray for the church throughout the world. . .

we pray for our bishop, our pastor, and all servants of the church. . .

we pray for those preparing for baptism. . .

we pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. . .

we pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. . .

we pray for those who do not believe in God. . .

we pray for God's creation. . .

we pray for those who serve in public office. . .

we pray for those in any need. . .

and we pray for all afflicted by the coronavirus. . .

Finally, we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread, Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Conclude with these words:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Three Days continues tomorrow with the [Vigil of Easter](#).

Worship in the Home

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Ps. 118:24*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good; God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let Israel | now declare, “God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:
“The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD| is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not | die, but live, and declare the works | of the LORD. R**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation. R**

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it. **R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders (*especially*). Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the creative and helpful service of worship leaders this day: musicians, ushers, greeters, worship assistants, preachers, readers, and all others who provide welcome and hospitality in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died (*especially*). Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

**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, forever and ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postponed

- Rummage & Bake Sale scheduled for April is postponed and we will not be accepting items for drop off at this time. When a new date, looking at possible Fall, is set we will let everyone know and set drop off dates and times. Thank you for your understanding.
- **P.S. Please do not leave any items at the Community Aid drop box in the parking lot, they are also closed and not picking items up.**



"Thank you" to everyone for your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my time of recovery after my March surgery. They were all very uplifting, encouraging, and so appreciated!

Rick Smeltz

THANK YOU

Thank you to **all** the members of St. John's who have supported and who continue to support Kate's Kupboard by sharing their time, talent and treasures. This outreach ministry would not be successful without everyone working together. The people who come on the 3rd Saturday of the month to receive items are very appreciative of what this ministry is doing for them. In some cases it has changed their lives.

Memorials Received



In memory of
Shirley McCreary
By
Cindy and Ken Holdren

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

On **March 21st** Kate's Kupboard was open for the monthly give away. We were challenged with the Coronavirus but we established extra safety precautions for the volunteers as well as the people visiting us. We were so thankful we could be open at this time of need.

We gave away the following items: **213** Bottles of Laundry Detergent, **169** Bars of Soap, **630** Washcloths, **169** Packs of Toilet Paper, **214** Bags of Groceries, **169** People passed thru our doors and we helped **630** people.

At the Baby Station we gave away: **6,126** Diapers, **209** Packs of Baby Wipes, **119** Other Assorted Baby Items. We helped **82** babies and **3** adults.

The cost for this giveaway was:

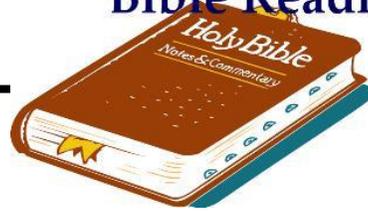
Household items:	\$ 709.00
Groceries:	\$1,744.10
Baby station:	\$ 996.25
Adult Products:	\$ 53.00
TOTAL:	\$3,502.35

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

So many people thanked us for being open at this very difficult time.



Daily Bible Reading



MEMBERS

PRAYER REQUEST: Kevin Lahr; Ginger Ward; Shirley Hill; David Bartholomew; Mark Bartholomew; John Brown; Leslie Walter; Jane Ramer; Sherry Metzler; Betsy Smeltz; Scott Yorty; Bob Hynick; Ronald Neitz; Ed Auman; Billy Lewis; Beulah Reynolds; Kim Metzler; Marti Row; Joan Rebeck; Marlyn Deihl.

HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL

PRAYERS : Esther Stamm; Teresa Meisinger; Doug Manning; Mary Rogers; Connie Lahr; David Hauck; Millie Lennon Blyth; Elaine Kohl; Eleanor Williamson; Bart Bartholomew; Frances Brouse; Caroline Hoffman; Nickolas Chiarkas; Tina Pontius; Shirley Gautsch: Nancy Hendricks; John Hendricks; Peg Feaster; Dixie Wagner; William Wagner; Elsie Mae Meehan; Sally Lewis; Arlet Hummel; Phyllis Gordon; Mike Payne; Carol Diehl; Betty Yerg; Harold Billman; Margaret Rantz; Joyce Shearer; Flora Fulmer; Carol Wilks

Pray for our military

Colton Brouse; Logan Brouse; Kale Gallo; Wyatt Kohl, Russell Haddon III

April 21	John 13:1-117
April 22	John 19:17-30
April 23	John 19:31-42
April 24	John 20:1-18
April 25	John 20:19-23
April 26	John 20:24-29
April 27	John 21:1-14
April 28	John 21:15-19
April 29	John 21:20-23
April 30	John 21:24-25
May 1	John 1:43-51
May 2	Job 19:23-27
May 3	John 2:1-11
May 4	Jonah 3:1-10
May 5	John 4:7-30
May 6	John 4:34-45
May 7	Ephesians 2:1-10
May 8	Proverbs 31:10-31
May 9	John 5:1-9
May 10	John 6:1-15
May 11	Jeremiah 3:11-19
May 12	Ezekiel 34:1-11
May 13	John 6:30-40
May 14	Ezekiel 34:23-31
May 15	Proverbs 16:19-25
May 16	John 6:60-69
May 17	Lamentation 3:19-26
May 18	John 7:14-24
May 19	John 7:25-36
May 20	John 7:37-52
May 21	Philippians 1:1-11
May 22	1 Chronicles 16:7-13
May 23	John 8:1-11

Service Assistants for May 2020

Date	Lector	Greeters	Communion Assistants	Bread	Ushers	Crucifer/Acolyte	Sound System
May 3 8:00 AM			Bill Troutman Barb Moyer	Jacki Cunningham			
May 3 10:15 AM	Mike Erdley	Joanne & Don Steele	Nancy Erdley Mike Erdley	Jacki Cunningham	Barb Moyer Gloria Auman Judy Hoffman Teresa Miller	Lucas Dunkelberger	Owen White
May 10 8:00 AM			Mindy Sawyer Madalynn Sawyer	Linda Bingaman			
May 10 10:15 AM	George Shearer	Judy & Frank Hoffman	Mary Dunkelberger Barb Moyer	Linda Bingaman	Bob Berry Bonnie Berry Maryann Berry Mike McWilliams	Janna Berry	Bob Berry
May 17 8:00 AM			Brenda Herbert David Herbert	Nancy Erdley			
May 17 10:15 AM	Gail Lehman	Bonnie & Bob Berry	Brian Cunningham Barb Moyer	Nancy Erdley	Jacki Cunningham Jen Long Lori Swanger Jodie Kremer	Logan McAllister	Mike Erdley
May 24 8:00 AM			Bill Troutman Barb Moyer	Karen Smeltz			
May 24 10:15 AM	Don Steele	Sharon & Mack Fleming	Trish Long Ginny Butler	Karen Smeltz	Mike Erdley Mack Fleming Glen Weaver Brian Cunningham	Mason McAllister	Brian Cunningham
May 31 8:00 AM			Mindy Sawyer Madalynn Sawyer	Cindy Manning			
May 31 10:15 AM	Eric Shearer	Mary & Greg Morton	Dean Siemsen Blain Shaffer	Cindy Manning	Lee Miller Ron Snyder Todd Deans Larry Redington	Elizabeth Bierly	Mike Erdley

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Priestley Library Book Collection 9:30-11:00 a.m.
3 Worship w/ Comm 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Comm 10:15 a.m.	4 Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m.	5 AA 7:00 p.m.	6 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	7 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Worship & Music 7:00 p.m. Al-anon 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Wedding – Deibler/Finfinger
10 Worship w/ Comm 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Comm 10:15 a.m.	11 Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m.	12 AA 7:00 p.m..	13 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	14 Messenger deadline 2:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Social Ministry 6:00 p.m. Al-anon 7:00 p.m.	15 Fellowship Hall Reserved	16 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
17 Mark Giesen presiding Worship w/ Comm 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Comm 10:15 a.m.	18 Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. WELCA 7:00 p.m.	19 AA 7:00 p.m.	20 Messenger folding 9:00 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	21 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al-anon 7:00 p.m.	22	23
24 Worship w/ Comm 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Comm 10:15 a.m.	25 Office Closed	26 AA 7:00 p.m.	27 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	28 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al-anon 7:00 p.m.	29 Fellowship Hall Reserved	30 Wedding – Rydzeski/Bucher Fellowship Hall Reserved
31 Pentecost Worship w/ Comm 8:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Comm 10:15 a.m.	June 1	2 AA 7:00 p.m.	3 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	4 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al-anon 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Priestley Library Book Collection 9:30-11:00 a.m.

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**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
570-473-3770
sjelc300@ptd.net**

Address Label



Sundays at St. John's

8:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Pre-K through 6th, & Catechism)
10:15 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Church Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Fri 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Karla Leiby, Vicar
William J. Jacavage, Director of Music