

Welcome, Announcements, and Land Acknowledgement

As we come to worship in Jesus' name we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ – on whose traditional and unceded territory we gather. We commit ourselves to just and respectful relationships within our congregation and our neighborhood.

➤ *Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary (repeat)*

Lenten Liturgy

During Lent, we remember that when life seems to change direction, God is offering a new way of being.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey as the Messiah.

Instead of entering triumphantly as a victorious king, he came humbly offering peace.

The crowd would change from shouting, “Hosanna” to “Crucify.”

They hoped that the Messiah would come to defeat the Romans.

But Jesus came to defeat sin and death itself.

Let us pray... **Holy One, blessed are you for you come among us offering new life. We recognize that we can be blinded by our expectations and are too often unwilling to see your different and better ways. Open us to the truth that there is more to your reality than we can see or understand. In the name of Christ, who is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine, Amen.**

PWS&D Sharing **Shining Hospital Provides More Than Medicine in Nepal**

It had been three years since Devika visited the hospital close to her home in Rukum district, Nepal, to get her leg checked out.

“These don’t work,” she would think, day after day, about the medicines the doctor had prescribed to her without giving her a diagnosis.

One day, after noticing more problems on her skin, Devika visited another clinic. Then she tried a traditional healer. As her symptoms continued to worsen, the answer seemed impossible to find.

After a friend praised the help she received at the PWS&D-supported Shining Hospital, Devika decided to visit.

The professionals at the Shining Hospital helped Devika understand she had leprosy and provided her with the medicine she needed.

Reflecting on her experience, Devika said, “[The hospital] has helped me a lot to detect my disease and I am very pleased to receive all the treatment and support. I am really grateful.”

Thank you for faithfully responding during Lent and throughout the year to Christ’s call to provide care and restore hope to those who are suffering. Through support of PWS&D, we are helping people build healthy lives.

† Prayer for Understanding

Gracious God, as we hear the stories of Jesus' final days again, help us listen as if we had never heard them before. By the power of your Spirit, engage us, shock us, and pierce our hearts, so your undying love overwhelms us with mercy and grace through Christ, your Living Word. Amen

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (with sung Refrain 3) **responsive/displayed**

Refrain 3 *This is the day that the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say,
"God's steadfast love endures forever."

Refrain 3 *This is the day that the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

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!

Refrain 3 *This is the day that the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

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, who 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 God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Refrain 3 *This is the day that the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Luke 19: 28b-40 [NT 83]

...[Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They said, "The Lord needs it."

Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

> *Hosanna*

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Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50: 4-9a [OT 681]

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31: 9-16 (with sung Refrain 1) *responsive/displayed*

Refrain 1 O let your heart take courage, all you, who wait for God.

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many – terror all around! – as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

Refrain 1 O let your heart take courage, all you, who wait for God.

But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Refrain 1 O let your heart take courage, all you, who wait for God.

Luke 22: 14 – Luke 23: 56 [NT 86]

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"

Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But 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, listen! 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.”

And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!”

Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

He said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?”

They said, “No, not a thing.”

He said to them, “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. 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’; and indeed, what is written about me is being fulfilled.”

They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He replied, “It is enough.”

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “*Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.*” [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

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; but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”

When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?”

Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "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 power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

But 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 and said, "This man also was with him."

But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word 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 and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" 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 brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us."

He replied, "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."

All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?"

He said to them, "You say that I am."

Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."

Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

He answered, "You say so."

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."

But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He 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 he put an elegant robe on him 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, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and 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."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This 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, "Crucify, crucify him!"

A third time he said to them, "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."

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

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. But Jesus turned to them and said, "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?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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.

[Then Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."*]

And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "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."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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, crying with a loud voice, said, *"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."*

Having said this, he breathed his last.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

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.

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.

➤ *Jesus, remember me (Taizé)*

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† Offering

On this Sunday, we remember that Christ faced down his critics, looked danger in the eye, and gave up his life on the cross for us. Now it's our turn to find the courage to give up something in gratitude for all he gave. Let us present our offering to God with grateful hearts.

➤ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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Gracious God, when we look at what you have done for us in Jesus Christ, our offering seems so small. Yet the story of Jesus tells us five loaves and two fish can feed a multitude, and a man condemned to death on a cross becomes Living Bread for a hungry world. Accept the gifts we offer today and use them to ensure that Jesus' story will continue to be shared. Amen

➤ *My song is love unknown*

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† Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Loving Jesus, you came to us in humility, reaching out to all God's children with mercy and compassion. You ask us to do the same. So today we pray for all those who find themselves in humble circumstances:

- for the homeless in our community and for refugees wherever they take shelter...
- for the poor and all who find themselves without resources to cope these days...
- for those who live in isolated communities in Canada and around the world, lacking access to care, resources and technology others take for granted.

Strengthen them in your mercy, and humble us, lest we forget how much we have to be grateful for.

Holy One, hear us as we pray for all those who have been humbled by life's unexpected turns during the pandemic. We remember before you

- those who face illness, pain or injury...
- those who have known death or disaster, fear or failure...
- and all who struggle with anxiety and uncertainty...

We pray for victims of crime and those who suffer through the misjudgment or mistake of others... And we pray for those who suffer because of the consequences of their own actions and choices... Embrace them in your mercy, and humble us, lest we imagine we can live lives untouched by trouble.

Merciful God, hear us as we pray for those who have not yet learned the lessons of humility:

- for those who live carelessly or drive recklessly, endangering themselves and others...

- for those who abuse the trust and power in their positions, betraying those whose interests are in their hands...
- for those who mislead others for gain or indulge their fame with no thought for the example they set...

Humble them in your mercy and humble us if we are tempted to ignore the consequences of our own actions.

Lord Jesus Christ, as we watch you walk to your cross this week, fill us with humble gratitude that you go before us into any challenge or crisis we may face. Give us courage to stand with others facing injustice or prejudice and give us words to speak out for those at risk at home or abroad, for you have given us words to pray for the coming of your kingdom – your reign of justice, mercy and peace. And so we boldly 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen***

➤ ***All glory, laud and honour***

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Scripture **Philippians 2: 5-11** [NT 197]

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

➤ ***Bless the Lord (Taizé)***