

02 April 2023 ~ Palm / Passion

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land – a relationship that is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the ləkʷəŋən and the WSÁNEĆ. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting the injustice in our history. We ask that the God of love and justice lead us along the path of reconciliation – inspiring new relationships of respect and solidarity.

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

*God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you*

PWS&D Message

In the Words of a Teenage Entrepreneur

Osline Pauleus lives in Haiti, a country which experiences some of the world's highest levels of food insecurity, caused by climate change and civil unrest.

One day Osline decided to go and see what other kids her age were doing at a youth club in her community. Intrigued by their activities, Osline decided to join the club.

The youth club, run by PWS&D's partner in Haiti with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank, helps young people develop skills for growing food crops that are more resilient in the face of increasingly unpredictable climate patterns.

"From the club, I learned a lot of things, like how to plant my own garden and use natural resource management. After receiving some training in the club's demonstration garden, I decided to start my own kitchen garden, where I planted okra, peppers, tomatoes, jute leaves, eggplant and spinach," shares Osline.

Today, Osline's garden is fruitful. Not only does she earn an income from it, but her garden also provides healthy food for her family and inspiration to her community.

This Lenten season, be grateful we can help support projects that provide sustainable solutions to address food insecurity and climate change.

➤ *Let us build a house (verse 3)*

Scripture **Matthew 21: 1-11** [NT 23]

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

➤ *Hosanna, loud hosanna*

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PWS&D Lenten Liturgy

Written by Jim Goring and the Rev. Ian Fraser (Pointe Claire, Quebec)

Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness & insecurities.

Sometimes the wilderness is the city.

In the city, life can be a struggle where the vulnerable are victimized by unfamiliar structures.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem to reclaim the city for God.

By entering on a donkey, Jesus showed that he would rule with humility & compassion.

As the Church, we too bring care to those whom the city too often forgets.

We remember that many are lost and alone: refugees, the unhoused, sex workers, those far from home.

We cannot put the burden on the destitute to find their way through the urban maze.

We come in humility to serve those whose resources are few & whose needs are many.

† Gathering Prayer and sung Words of Hope

We give thanks O God for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever! This is the day that you have made; we rejoice and are glad in it. Hosanna in the highest. We give thanks O God for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever!

Lord Jesus Christ, on the first Palm Sunday you entered the rebellious city where you were to die. Enter our hearts, we pray, and subdue them to your way. As your disciples blessed your coming and spread garments and branches on your path, make us ready to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are. Hosanna in the highest. May we truly bless your coming O Lord. **Amen**

➤ *How deep the peace (repeat) – please remain seated*

Offering and Prayer *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* 306

Today we are reminded that Christ offered his life on the Cross for our sakes. Now it's our turn to offer God our gifts in gratitude, trusting God to use them to create new life in Jesus' name.

Gracious God, your presence in the holy city, and in our lives, is the presence that transforms all of life. We hold up to you now our hearts and these gifts, praying for your blessing. We join our voices now to affirm our faith...

The Apostles' Creed

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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

➤ *All gory, laud and honour*

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Matthew 26: 14-29 [NT 29]

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?"

He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after

giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Invitation to the Table

Friends, Lent is not simply a time for temporary self-discipline. It is time to refashion our relationship with God and to be refashioned by God's strength and grace. This meal is the gift of that strength and grace. It comes not as a whole loaf and bottle for each one to take away and relish in private. It comes in broken pieces and deep sips shared to remind us there will always be enough for everyone who seeks a place at this table. So come, you who have much faith and you who have a little – you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time. Our Saviour invites all those who trust divine grace to share this feast as a foretaste of the kingdom.

† Celebrating Together with Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Amid shouts of Hosanna! Jesus enters Jerusalem for the redemption of the world... Betrayed by friends, rejected by all, he accepts the shame of the cross. By his suffering and death he defeats the power of death and becomes for us the source of eternal life.

Gracious God, we praise you – giving thanks to you with our lips and our lives for when we were nothing, you made us something. When we had no name and no faith and no future – you called us your children.

When we lost our way, or turned away, you did not abandon us. In Jesus the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvelous light.

When we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. You prepare a table for us – offering, not just bread, not just wine – but your very self so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed and made new again.

Your mercy sustains creation day by day and so we sing in praise and wonder...

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to the table remembering your love for the world... We remember how you walked the road with those who suffer, touching those in pain and grief, giving strength to those in weakness, welcoming those who had been pushed aside, standing up to those with callous hearts. You lived to offer mercy to all. You died because we find it so hard to offer mercy to each other. And so we remember in silence those who need your mercy this day... [silence]

On the night Jesus was betrayed by friends who thought their intentions good and commitment strong, Jesus sat at table with those very friends. While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and said, "Take, eat, this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is the new covenant, poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins." As often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. ...As Jesus gave thanks to God for the gifts of the earth, so let us give thanks for what we receive from God's hand. We sing in remembrance of your grace...

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!***

Holy Spirit, move among us in kindness now as we remember what mercy has cost the God of love... Pour out your grace on the bread we break and the cup we share today. Let us taste the passion of Jesus baked into this bread and be moved to act with compassion in his name. Let us taste the renewing love of Jesus that refreshes us from this cup and be moved to greet each day with fresh hope.

Holy God, strengthen us by your undying love, so that we may remember to show mercy to others, and to seek mercy from others, living unafraid to bear the cost of mercy day by day. ...We offer our lives to you as we sing...

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!

Sharing Bread and Cup

The one who suffered for our injustices is now present in this bread.

The one whose body was hung on a cross is now offered in this cup.

The bread of life – the cup of grace – we remember and share with thanksgiving.

Come and share in these gifts. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

Please come forward to receive Holy Communion – everyone is welcome at this table.

If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you.

We use gluten and dairy-free bread. Both juice and wine are available.

Pre-packaged elements are provided on request.

† Prayer after Communion

Holy One, you know us completely – our doubt, our fatigue, our desire to ignore, our carefree forgetfulness. Breathe your life into us. Encourage and uplift us – surprise us with your powerful spirit. Work in us and through us, O God, to fill the world with your spirit. In gratitude for this meal – these people – we give ourselves again to you. Trusting in you, we offer all our quiet thoughts and prayers into your care. May we go forward, strengthened, refreshed, and empowered by your Spirit to be true and joyful witnesses to Jesus Christ – living to your glory in all we do. We sing our prayer together...

➤ ***Our Father in heaven*** (*The Lord's Prayer – no repeats*)

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➤ ***Ride on, ride on in majesty***

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Matthew 26: 30 – 27: 52 [NT 29]

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike

the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."

Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about."

When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."

After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "You say so."

But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

And they said, "Barabbas."

Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"

Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

➤ *My song is love unknown*

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Matthew 27: 53 – 27: 66 [NT 33]

After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple

of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

➤ ***Bless the Lord** (repeat)*