

*Worshiping*  
apart but always together!



ARE **CHURCH**



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*Come Grow  
With Us!*

Dear Friends and Family of Gethsemane,

You are not alone. Jesus said, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." In these days of physical distance, we do well to remember these words. Christ is present in the people who remain at work serving our needs, in the beauty of creation, in each of us, the body of Christ. We are church.

One way we can remain connected in community is to observe a common time of prayer. Until we meet again, let's pause at 12 noon every day and say a prayer for the people of Gethsemane and the whole church throughout the world. Pray for health care professionals, retail workers, all who care for the needs of people. Pray for safety for family and friends, pray as the Spirit leads you. I will do the same.

Many of you have expressed a desire for resources to use in worship at home, especially during Holy Week and Easter. I have enclosed a format you may choose to use for April: Sundays, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Each one includes elements of our common worship: the prayer of the day, scripture readings, a time for reflection, a song of the day, closing prayer and blessing. Use these materials alone or with family.

Use the printed enclosures, or you may go to our website, and click on the front-page icon to view on-line, [www.gethlutheran.org](http://www.gethlutheran.org). The website links will take you to YouTube music videos. You will also find updates on [facebook.com/gethluth](https://www.facebook.com/gethluth).

We will be posting news and information on the website and Face Book as circumstances change, so check it frequently, or ask a friend to keep you informed.

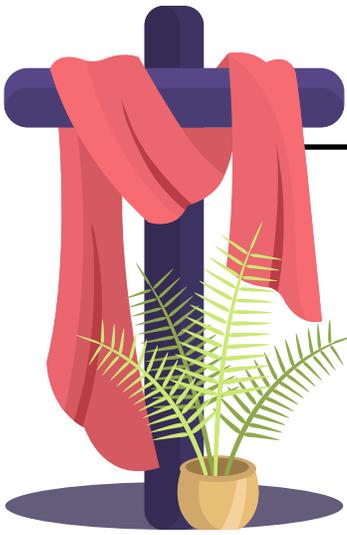
Now that the snow is nearly gone (as of this writing) stop by the Garden of Gethsemane to pause for reflection and prayer. We will be dressing it up a bit as weather permits, especially for Holy Week and Easter. Even though we cannot yet gather for indoor worship, the outdoor space is there for you to use.

God's continued blessing and peace be with you,

Mavis Buker,  
SAM Minister

# Sunday, April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion



On Palm Sunday we remember the day Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem as crowds of people spread their cloaks and palms on the road shouting praises

to him. It is also observed as Sunday of the Passion, remembering that Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led to the cross. You may choose to read the entire passion story today or break it up into several parts to be read throughout Holy week.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Sovereign God, you have established your rule in our hearts through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## READ

Philippians 2:5-11 *At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow...*

## READ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 *Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem.*  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 *The passion story*

## PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

## THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 Today's lesson begins with praise for Jesus (Hosanna!) and ends with betrayal (crucify him!) We want to follow Christ, yet we deny Christ to save ourselves. Name a time when you praised God with all your heart. Name a time when you walked away from God. Thank God that you are fully known, loved, and forgiven.
- 2 It is natural for humans to want only joyous, happy times in life and faith.

"Hosana! (save us)" The crowds saw Jesus as one who would save them from suffering. Jesus does a greater thing. Jesus promises to be with us in suffering and assures us there is life and wholeness on the other side of suffering and death. When have you suffered, then experienced wholeness or happiness?

- 3 How do you experience God at work in your life?

## DO

Sing or listen to the traditional Palm Sunday hymn, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvDCMvNktqk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvDCMvNktqk) (traditional) - OR -

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHLZJBq-cE8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHLZJBq-cE8) (more upbeat)

Wave your branches as you sing along with this ancient hymn from the 8th century.

Sing as though no one is listening. When you sing, you pray twice.

## PRAY

*Lord Jesus, give me courage to stay with you, serve with you, pray with you, and weep with you this Holy Week and to remember, Easter is coming. Amen.*

## BLESS

Let the same mind that was in Christ Jesus be in you now and forever. Amen.♥

## FAMILY TIME EXTRA:



There will be palms available at church on Saturday outside the front door. Stop by and pick up one for each member of your family. Wave them during your worship time (brunch?) Put them in a vase on your table for the week or use them in your Easter floral arrangement.

Have your own Palm Sunday processional around your yard, ending in your house. Say a prayer to invite Jesus into your home. "Come, Lord Jesus..." would be appropriate and double as your table blessing before your Palm Sunday Brunch.

# Thursday, April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday



This Maundy Thursday... The night in which our Lord, Jesus was betrayed. The night in which we

were given the Lord's Supper; the night in which Jesus loved and served and commanded that we do the same.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*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 the 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.*

## READ

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*The Apostle Paul recites the words of the Lord's Supper*

## READ

Gospel Reading John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
*Jesus teaches love and service*

## PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

## THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 Think about the words in verse 1, "he loved them to the end..." Who in your life has loved you to the end? Tell their story.
- 2 Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment – to love as Jesus loved. Is that possible? What sacrifices would you make for another?
- 3 Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet. Sometimes it is easier for us to serve others than to allow others to serve us. What gets in the way? How can we allow

others to serve us? When someone offers to serve us, what might the response be?

## DO

Sing or listen to the song "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (Servant Song)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=32jWTAIHxgE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32jWTAIHxgE)

Remember, when you sing, you pray twice.

Read Michael Marsh's meditation on Maundy Thursday:

[interruptingthesilence.com/2019/04/18/this-is-our-night-a-sermon-on-john-131-17-31-35-for-maundy-thursday/](http://interruptingthesilence.com/2019/04/18/this-is-our-night-a-sermon-on-john-131-17-31-35-for-maundy-thursday/)

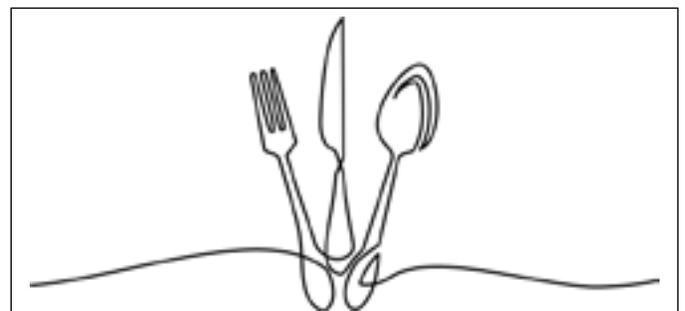
Let Jesus wash your feet and your whole life.

## PRAY

*Lord Jesus, give me courage to stay with you, serve with you, pray with you, and weep with you this Maundy Thursday and to remember, Easter is coming. Amen.*

## BLESS

May the God of Love fill you with grace and courage to serve and be served. Amen.♥



## FAMILY TIME EXTRA:

Have a sit-down family meal, just like Jesus did with his disciples. Talk about friendship, loyalty, betrayal, staying awake during prayers (or church). Talk about ways your family serves others. How can you serve others from afar? Could you offer spring lawn clean up, service a lawn mower, till a garden?

Visit the cross at the Garden of Gethsemane. Take time to pray and then return home knowing that Jesus has born our griefs and carried our sorrows.

# Friday, April 10, 2020

## Good Friday



## IT IS Finished!

On Good Friday we remember the Passion of Christ. As you worship at home on this day, you join with millions around the world who confess Jesus as their Savior. Yet, even as we remember his death, we acknowledge the victory that is ours through his resurrection.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord, Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, 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.*

### READ

John 18:1-19:42 The Passion of Christ

### PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

### THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 Why did Jesus die? For whom did Jesus die?
- 2 If you had been there, do you think you could have stayed and watched the crucifixion? Do you understand the disciples who left? Do you understand the women who stayed?
- 3 When the church commemorates the passion of Christ, we convey that the church is a "safe" place where pain, suffering, tragedy, doubt, and confusion are joined with our Savior. Jesus understands suffering. Jesus died for all. All are welcome. How might you be a "safe" place for others?

### DO

Sing or listen to "Were you There When They Crucified My Lord?"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLJ0jLAmOA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLJ0jLAmOA)

Listen to the video with lyrics, "I'll Rise Again" by Dallas Holm.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBqoQJRNepo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBqoQJRNepo)

Good Friday is dark and ends in death, but Easter is coming! Or,

Listen to Chris Tomlin, "The Wonderful Cross"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaO3XOI8P6w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaO3XOI8P6w)

### PRAY

*Lord Jesus, give me courage to stay with you, serve with you, pray with you, die to myself with you this Holy Day and to remember, Easter is coming. Amen.*

### BLESS

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen.♥



### FAMILY TIME EXTRA:

Good Friday: Make a cross in your yard using branches, sticks, or scrap lumber.

Have a bonfire after dark and talk about how Judas betrayed Jesus and how Peter denied knowing Jesus, both after dark. Do we find it easier to forgive Judas or Peter? Do you think the other disciples ever forgave Judas?

Make crosses for each room in your house with craft sticks or paper to remind everyone this is Good Friday.

Visit the cross at the Garden of Gethsemane.

# Sunday, April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday



We remember, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!" Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

friend, etc.) What makes it special? How might Jesus call your name? How does Jesus' resurrection give you hope?

## DO

Sing or listen to the song "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" ELW #365 (traditional)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkZ2aes2WfE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkZ2aes2WfE)

Or, "Because He Lives" with lyrics. Sing along. The words were made for these days.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA)

Or join Molly Skaggs with Bethel Music and sing "Ain't No Grave". Sing with victory in your voice. Sing like no one is listening. Dance like no one is watching.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGncW\\_ueyHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGncW_ueyHA)

## PRAY

*Lord Jesus, you live, and you hold my future. Take away my fear and give me courage to trust in you. With all of creation, let me ever sing your hymns of praise, and rejoice and be glad in every good day you give me. Amen.*

## BLESS

May God who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. 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.*

## READ

Psalm 118:1-4, 14-24, *This is the day...*

## READ

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18,  
Matthew 28:1-10, *The resurrection of Jesus*

## PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

## THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 While it was still dark... How is suffering, physical or emotional, more difficult at night? Have you experienced a long night when it seemed dawn would never come? Was your hope renewed with the dawn of a new day?
- 2 The angels and Jesus asked, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Imagine an angel, or Jesus, asking you that same question. What makes you weep? Does it comfort you to know that God wants to hear your cares and concerns, your hopes and hurts? Give your burdens and cares to Jesus today.
- 3 Jesus spoke Mary's name and then she recognized him. In your life, who speaks your name in a special way (parent, child,

## FAMILY TIME EXTRA:

Easter: If you make Easter baskets for your family members, or have an egg hunt, include at least one egg with "Alleluia!" inside it, reminding them that we hid our Alleluia under the cross at the beginning of Lent. The more alleluias, the better.

Rise before dawn and watch the sunrise (weather permitting), just like the first Easter. Live this day as though it is your first, and as though it is your last.

Make the sign of the cross on your forehead with water to remember you are baptized. Every day is resurrection day, a new beginning.

Visit the cross at the Garden of Gethsemane.

# Sunday, April 19, 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter

Easter, like Christmas, is not just one day in the life of the church. We celebrate 50 days of Easter. In this week's gospel Jesus appears to the twelve and gives them the gifts of peace and of the Holy Spirit. He overcame doubts; doubt spoken by Thomas, and possibly doubt unspoken by the others.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Almighty and Eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## READ

Psalm 16

*In God's presence there is fullness of joy*

## READ

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

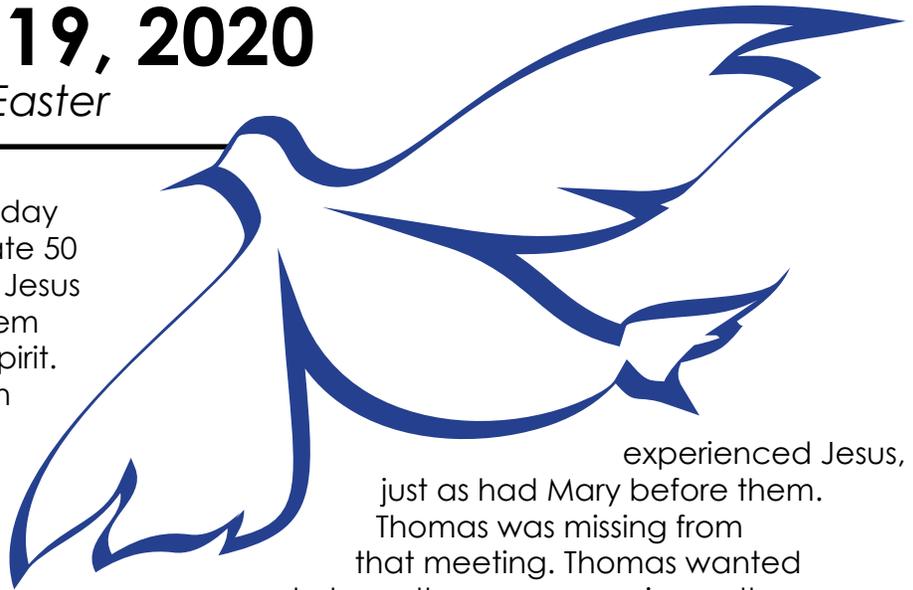
*Jesus appears to the disciples*

## PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

## THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 Both times Jesus appeared to the disciples in this reading, he began with, "Peace be with you." Why do you think he said that? Might they have been afraid to face Jesus after they had deserted him? Can we welcome Jesus when we are not at peace? How do we find peace?
- 2 Many of us try to hide our scars, physical and emotional, yet Jesus showed his scars. Christ is made known in imperfection and brokenness. How might our openness and imperfections draw others to Christ?
- 3 The first time Jesus appeared to the disciples without Thomas they saw for themselves the risen Christ. They



experienced Jesus, just as had Mary before them. Thomas was missing from that meeting. Thomas wanted to have the same experience the others had. What is it like to miss out on something special? How might we include others who feel excluded from our church? Our community? Our world?

## DO

Sing or listen to the traditional song "I know That My Redeemer Lives", a confession of faith for Thomas and for each of us.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tMqpruzpv0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tMqpruzpv0)

Or a contemporary confession of faith, "In Christ Alone"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3ExMwj9Efw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3ExMwj9Efw)

## PRAY

*Precious Jesus, come through the closed doors of my heart and bring me peace. Grant me faith and give to me the joy of your resurrection life. Amen.*

## BLESS

May God, who raised Jesus from the dead, raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Amen.♥

# Sunday, April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Easter, like Christmas, is not just one day in the life of the church. We celebrate 50 days of Easter. In this week's gospel Jesus appears to two disciples walking along a road. Jesus walks with us and comes to us, opening our eyes to see him.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## READ

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
*I will call on the name of the Lord*

## READ

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

## PRAY

*"Thank you, God, for your word. Amen."*

## THINK, TALK, SHARE

- 1 Jesus met the disciples on the road. How might you recognize Jesus in strangers along the roads in your life? Consider keeping a care bag in your care to give to someone in need you might meet along the way.
- 2 Although Jesus knew exactly the grief the disciples were feeling he asked them about it anyway, and he listened. He showed his care. Empathetic listening can change lives. Are you better at listening or speaking? Practice listening this week. If you find it hard to speak or tell about your

disappointments, practice expressing your feelings and concerns.

- 3 The disciples said, "we had hoped he was the one..." When have your hopes been disappointed? When did you mourn when things did not go as you thought they would or should? Were those hopes based on things you thought you could control? On worldly goods or easy answers? Jesus gives true hope, based on a dreadful cross and an empty tomb. Real hope. Hope that even death cannot destroy.

## DO

Sing or listen to the traditional song "Thine Is the Glory"

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbBOOmKMLmI)

Or, go to youtube.com and listen to some of your favorite worship music videos.

## PRAY

Precious Jesus, walk with me. Talk with me. Teach me. As you offer your broken body in the broken bread, break the things within me and around me that keep my eyes from seeing you. Amen.

## BLESS

May God, who raised Jesus from the dead, raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Amen.♥





Check your mail, facebook  
and website for updates!  
- Mavis and Tina -

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*“Better days are ahead, hang in there! Missing everyone.” - Tina*

