

MAUNDY THURSDAY

(FOR ALL THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK, I AM INDEBTED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND TO MY COLLEAGUE,
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM C. THOMAS)

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.**

Then read this reading:

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.**

Then pray this Psalm:

PSALM 116

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

Then read this reading:

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.**

Then read the Gospel:

***GOSPEL: John 13:1–17, 31b–35**

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

Now 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**

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.

Here you may wash your hands or feet, using the water in the bowl, recalling Jesus washing his disciples' feet.

Then you may pray together with all of us these intercessions for our church and world:

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. Give our bishops and all our clergy 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 we pray for those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...

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, 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 88

- 1 O Lord, my | God, my Savior,
by day and night I | cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer enter in- | to your presence;
incline your ear to my | lamentation.
- 3 For I am | full of trouble;
my life is at the brink | of the grave.
- 4 I am counted among those who go down | to the pit;
I have become like one who | has no strength;
- 5 lost among the dead, like the slain who lie | in the grave,
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off | from your hand.
- 6 You have laid me in the depths | of the pit,
in dark places, and in | the abyss.
- 7 Your anger weighs up- | on me heavily,
and all your great waves | overwhelm me.
- 8 You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be ab- | horred by them;
I am in prison and can- | not get free.
- 9 My sight has failed me be- | cause of trouble;
Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my | hands to you.
- 10 Do you work wonders | for the dead?
Will those who have died stand up and | give you thanks?
- 11 Will your lovingkindness be declared | in the grave,
your faithfulness in the land | of destruction?
- 12 Will your wonders be known | in the dark
or your righteousness in the country where all | is forgotten?
- 13 But as for me, O Lord, I cry to | you for help;
in the morning my prayer | comes before you.
- 14 Lord, why have you re- | jected me?
Why have you hidden your | face from me?
- 15 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the | point of death;

I have borne your terrors | and am helpless.
16Your blazing anger has swept | over me;
your terrors | have destroyed me;
17they surround me all day long | like a flood;
they encompass me on | every side.
18My friend and my neighbor you have put a- | way from me,
and darkness is my on-|ly companion.

Let us bless the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

*The Three Days continue tomorrow with the service for Good Friday.
Scroll all the way down to see the bulletin.*

GOOD FRIDAY

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 read the readings that follow.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

- ¹³See, 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?
- ²For 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;

Pray this Psalm:

PSALM 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you for-¹saken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words ¹ of my groaning?
- ²My God, I cry out by day, but you ¹ do not answer;
by night, but I ¹ find no rest.
- ³Yet you are the ¹ Holy One,
enthroned on the prais-¹es of Israel.
- ⁴Our ancestors put their ¹ trust in you,
they trusted, and you ¹ rescued them.
- ⁵They cried out to you and ¹ were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not ¹ put to shame.
- ⁶But as for me, I am a worm ¹ and not human,
scorned by all and despised ¹ by the people.
- ⁷All who see me laugh ¹ me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they ¹ shake their heads.
- ⁸"Trust in the LORD; let the ¹ LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de- ¹ lights in him."
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth ¹ from the womb,
and kept me safe on my ¹ mother's breast.
- ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since ¹ I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my ¹ mother's womb.
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trou-¹ble is near,
and there is no ¹ one to help.
- ¹²Many young bulls en- ¹ circle me;
strong bulls of Ba-¹shan surround me.
- ¹³They open wide their ¹ jaws at me,
like a slashing and ¹ roaring lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are ¹ out of joint;
my heart within my breast is ¹ melting wax.
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the
roof ¹ of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the ¹ dust of death.
- ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers ¹ circles round me;
they pierce my hands ¹ and my feet.
- ¹⁷I can count ¹ all my bones
while they stare at ¹ me and gloat.
- ¹⁸They divide my gar-¹ments among them;
for my clothing, ¹ they cast lots.
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not ¹ far away;
O my help, hasten ¹ to my aid.
- ²⁰Deliver me ¹ from the sword,
my life from the power ¹ of the dog.
- ²¹Save me from the ¹ lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have ¹ rescued me.
- ²²I will declare your name ¹ 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 off-|spring of Israel.
²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor | in their
 poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid-|den 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 o- | ver 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 be- | fore the LORD.
³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
 whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
 saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

Then read the Gospel.

GOSPEL JOHN 18:1 - 19:42

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So 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. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" 5 They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." 10 Then 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. 11 Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

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

15 Simon 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, 16 but 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.

19:1Then 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 crowd 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 people 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 Jewish authorities 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 authorities, 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, Lord Christ.**

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.

Then pray

THE BIDDING PRAYER

keeping silence after each bid

Dear members of God's family:

- we pray for the church throughout the world. . .
- we pray for our bishops, our clergy, 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.

