A Holy Week Message from the Rector

On Palm Sunday, we approached the end of our Lenten season and the beginning of Holy Week with the telling of the Passion of Christ. Waving our palms and singing songs of jubilation, much like the crowds did 2,000 years ago, we welcomed Jesus as he makes his triumphal and final entrance into Jerusalem. However, things change very quickly during the coming week, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. These days are known as the Triduum, the three days leading up to Easter Sunday. During Holy Week services, our ancient liturgies and hauntingly beautiful hymns invite us to walk with Jesus during his last days. On Maundy Thursday, we will share an Agape Feast, much like the Last Supper, and hear Jesus’s words that instituted our Holy Communion, wash one another’s feet and strip the altar. Good Friday is a somber time when we recall Jesus’s betrayal, trial and agonizing death on the cross. All children and their parents are invited to Walk with Jesus on Friday morning at a special Good Friday service just for them, with hands-on storytelling and songs. Holy Saturday, the day that Jesus lay in his tomb, is a time of faithful vigil as the Lenten season comes to an end and we prepare for Easter, our faith anchored in the belief that love, not death, will have the last word. We bid you a most blessed Holy Week and hope you will join us as we walk with Jesus, knowing that we must be willing to endure the sting of death before we can welcome the Risen Christ on Easter morning with great joy and jubilation.

If you are with us for the first time, please make yourself comfortable. We look forward to meeting you. If you would like to learn more about the church, please fill out a card (hanging in each pew), put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or member of the clergy, and we will be in touch. It is our custom to be silent before the service, so as you take some time to pray, please turn off all electronic devices. All you should need to participate in the service is found here, in this bulletin and in the blue hymnal in the pew rack. Hearing assist devices are available. Please ask the ushers for assistance with this or any other requests. Again, welcome.


ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY    Chorale    Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

THE SILENT PROCESSION

All stand at the sound of the bell.

Celebrant    Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People      God’s mercy endures for ever.
Celebrant    Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
People      Amen.
THE KYRIE ELEISON

Music: Plainsong Mode I, Orbis Factor

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

EXODUS 12:1-4

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell 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. If 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. This 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. For 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. The 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. This 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.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

The people saying the text in bold print, and singing the antiphon as indicated.

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
10 How shall I repay the Lord * for all the good things he has done for me?
11 I will lift up the cup of salvation * and call upon the Name of the Lord.
12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people. Antiphon
13 Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of his servants.
14 O Lord, I am your servant; * I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving * and call upon the Name of the Lord.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the Lord’s house, * in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Antiphon

THE EPISTLE  

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, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In 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.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 171  Go to dark Gethsemane
All stand and sing.

THE GOSPEL
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

Jesus 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.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After 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? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little 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.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON
The Reverend Hope Eakins
THE MAUNDY

The Celebrant says

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called to the ordained ministry. Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to come forward, that I may recall whose servant I am by following the example of my Master. But come remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others, for a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Celebrant The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.”

People Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

Celebrant I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

Celebrant By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Those who wish to have their feet washed may come forward to sit in the front pews.

Please join in singing the hymn as it is repeated.

THE HYMN AT THE MAUNDY Stay with me

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people say the words in bold.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant      Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask; Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant      Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing or kneel.

All            Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant      Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.
THE PEACE

Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All        And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY MUSIC  Ah, holy Jesus  Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People     And also with you.
Celebrant  Lift up your hearts.
People     We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People     It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.


Music: Gregorian Chant, Deus Genitor alme

All remain standing or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin
Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death.
We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues.
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Deus Genitor alme
THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant  The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at St. John’s. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the clergy at the communion rail. If you would like a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

THE COMMUNION HYMN 458  My song is love unknown

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All stand or kneel.

Celebrant  Let us pray.

People  Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.  Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant  Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People  Amen.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Chanted by Scott Lamlein and Daaé Ransom

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; ‘Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!’

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.  
Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me,  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shrivelled;  
I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.  
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me,  
but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live for ever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Please leave the church in silence.

The labyrinth is available for walking this evening in the parish hall. The Altar of Repose, where tonight’s bread and wine will be reserved for use on Good Friday, is available for prayer and reflection in the Education Wing until 10 p.m.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY
Celebrant: The Reverend Susan Pinkerton
Preacher: The Reverend Hope Eakins
Deacon: The Reverend Walter McKenney
Layreader: John Hardy
Acolyte: J.P. Evans
Altar Guild: Alycia Evica and Nancy Pedersen

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Good Friday
7 a.m. and 12:10 p.m
10 a.m. interactive service for children
7 p.m. at St. James’s, 1018 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

Easter Sunday
8 and 10:30 a.m.

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