



(During this time of rather extraordinary circumstances, this abridged Liturgy of the Word is designed to be used in the home in conjunction with its corresponding online video podcast.)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where is our help to come?
Our help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for self-reflection)

Gracious God,
Have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God,
In your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ
to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross.
In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"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."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Solo/Anthem

Homily

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith:

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

Holy God, we pray for the Church, gathered, yet also separated at this time... that we may follow Christ's leading, not only as we journey through this Holy Week with him and behold the mystery of his death and resurrection, but also as we continue to face with courage the challenges and uncertainties brought upon us by the virus pandemic. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

We pray for all Christians during this Holy Week... that like Christ, we may more deeply learn to follow the way of the Cross, that we may learn to have the mind of Christ, and that we may learn how to humbly empty ourselves, so that we may become truly filled and raised, even now, into newness of life. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

God of grace, we pray for all who are dying, grieving and letting go... that they may know your presence with them, as well as the love which never dies. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**)

Christ our Healer, we approach your throne of grace on behalf of those who struggle, those who fear, and those who have brokenness in their lives. We ask your hand of peace to touch upon them. We lift our prayers, asking that you fill the needs of *Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Frances Franz, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Arlene Schirmer, Harold Spivey, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Russell Brown, Bill Brewer, Charlie Boehme*, and all who we name now in our hearts... (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

O God, our strength, we continue to pray for our community, our nation, and our world. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom and safety to health care workers, as well as those whose daily work puts them at greater risk. Enable us to face these days not with trepidation, but with compassion, generosity, and acts of loving service. (Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).

For prayer requests, please contact the church office (210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org

Lord's Prayer

Remember us, Lord, in your Kingdom, and help us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

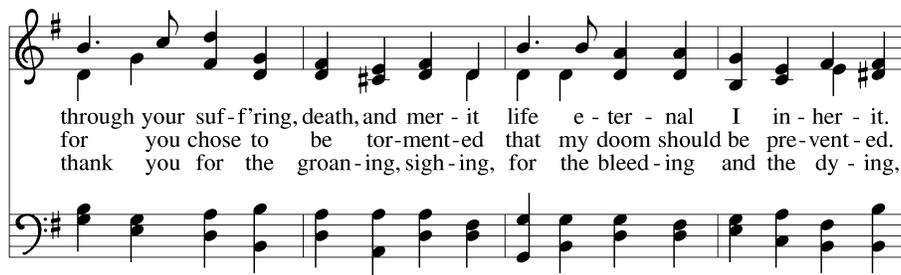
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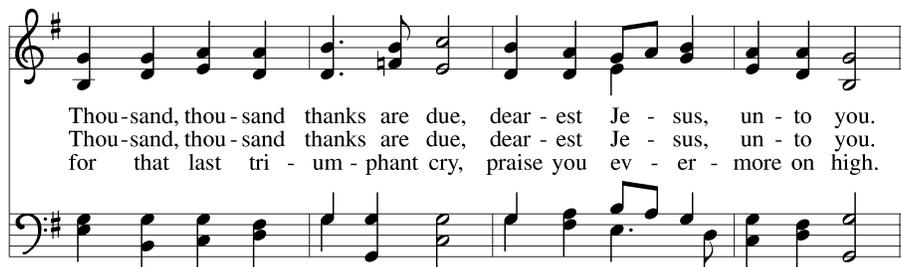
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

Dismissal

Go in peace. May Christ be your Strength.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

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