

Morning Prayer II PALM SUNDAY

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: **Come let us adore him.**

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *Read aloud responsively by half verse, standing*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."

Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

"You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lesson

Isaiah 50:4-9a *Seated*

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The provided meditation may be read, if desired.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collects

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants., that *their* weakness may be banished and *their* strength restored; and that, *their* health being renewed, *they* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, 458)

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Then may be said

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

The Officiant may then conclude with

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *2 Corinthians 13:14*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH *of* THE ASCENSION

1030 Johnston Street Lafayette, LA 70501 • (337) 232-2732 • www.ascensionlafayette.com

The Reverend Joseph E. Daly

Rector

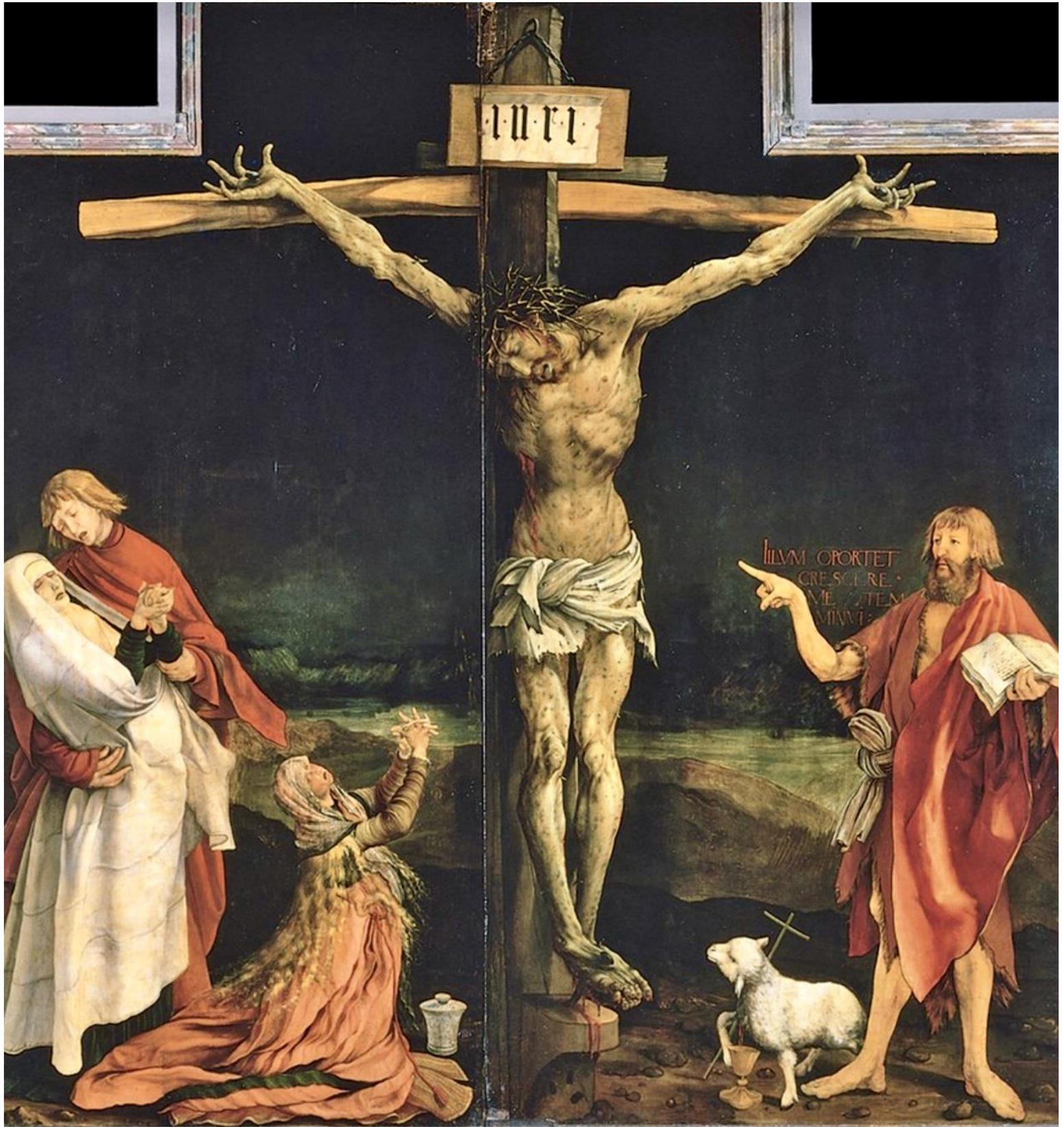
Today, Christians commemorate Jesus' procession down the Mount of Olives paved with palms, an ancient poetic symbol of righteousness and strength that stand tall and strong in the desert. Jesus passes them over and, instead of palms, he invites his disciples to take up a cross and follow him. Their festival celebrations are unexpectedly destroyed by death.

This week, Christians (and Jews) everywhere are struggling to come to terms with canceled celebrations as the entire world is suddenly having to face the threat of Death together. This solemn moment is perhaps a chance to reflect upon what we celebrate and why.

Consider the German artist Matthias Grünewald who was commissioned in 1512 to paint a chapel altarpiece for a monastery that hospitalized the terminally ill, many of whom suffered the plague, leprosy and St. Antony's fire, or ergotism, a painful disease that often resulted in amputation and death. For four years, Grünewald lived among the monks who sought to comfort the sick as well as their families who helplessly stood by their loved ones in immense suffering. So, as they gathered together for daily prayers and communion, the artist left before them a life sized Jesus hanging in the darkness, his emancipated body twisted, broken, and entirely covered with the inflamed sores they saw every day. And at the foot of the cross is the Lamb of God whose blood pours into the cup they share, the Christ who shares our suffering and death, the God who shares his eternal life with us.

Grünewald powerfully portrays the promise of Isaiah the prophet, "by his wounds, we are healed." Christ our Passover lamb is sacrificed *for us*. This year, however, we cannot keep the feast. Even in Jerusalem, the church that enshrines Golgotha and Christ's tomb is closed to the public, the first time since the Plague nearly 700 years ago.

This Holy Week, stop to listen to those who witnessed Jesus enter the city, overturn tables, wash feet, break bread, pray in the garden, suffer betrayal, cruelty and death. For our hope and joy is our God who enters suffering and experiences it to redeem it, not simply rise above it. As Bishop Athanasius expressed so long ago, *He became one of us so we might become one with him.*



I.N.R.I.

ILVM OPORTET
CRESCERE
VE ITEM
MIVI