

April 2022 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of April 2022.

As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshiping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

The Problem of Palm Sunday

It was the palm branches that made this day unique, and then again, it wasn't.

For centuries, the church has memorialized the first day of Holy Week, as Palm Sunday because of the palm branches and cloaks that the people spread out before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

The Gospel writers tell us a crowd gathered, gushing with excitement, and lined the road in front of Jesus as he slowly rode into the city. As he made his way, one step at a time by the beast of burden on which he sat, a sort of carpet was being sewn together ahead of him. Fresh, green palm branches, presumably picked from nearby trees, and thick, worn clothing, likely from the backs of the crowd, formed a tapestry of endearment toward Israel's long-awaited Messiah.

And according to the Pharisees, this was a problem. But actually, it wasn't the palm branches that were the problem so much as what the people were saying.

Luke tells us that as Jesus entered Jerusalem the people began rejoicing and praising God, shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38) Some Pharisees try to get Jesus to make the crowd stop. They ask him to rebuke the people for what they're saying — the whole "Blessed is the King" bit.

The Pharisees get it, you see. This isn't just any phrase. This is the kind of welcome reserved for Israel's Savior. It's a phrase found in the Hebrew Scriptures, going back to Psalm 118, a psalm that rejoices in the Lord's triumph. By verse 22 of this psalm, the rejected stone has become the "cornerstone" (Psalm 118:22). This is a marvelous work — by God's doing — which then launches the day of salvation (Psalm 118:23–24). This day of salvation is the long-anticipated deliverance that Israel thought might never come. But it will, it does, and Psalm 118:25 captures the hope: "Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!"

Now this salvation and success is nothing generic. It will come through a person — the Messiah of God — the one sent to rescue his people. So goes the shout, in the psalm, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Psalm 118:26)

Without doubt, this rambling crowd in Jerusalem, taking its cues from Psalm 118, is declaring Jesus to be the Messiah. That's why the Pharisees tell Jesus to stop the madness. Do you hear what they are saying? They think you're the Messiah come to save us. Tell them to shut up. Jesus doesn't stop them, though. He says, instead, that if the people weren't saying it then the rocks themselves would cry out. Of course, Jesus is the Messiah. He has come to Jerusalem to save his people.

And according to the crowd, this was a problem.

But actually, it wasn't the salvation part that was the problem so much as the way Jesus would bring salvation. The people wanted salvation and success, remember. Which means, they wanted the Messiah to march into the city and do hard business with Rome. They wanted to be free from Gentile oppression, even if by force, even if by threats and plagues and a split sea, as they recounted so well in their history. They wanted another exodus, one that expelled the Romans. Instead, what they got by Friday morning was a bloodied has-been, a man in Roman custody, rejected by their own leaders, standing next to an infamous criminal called Barabbas. They wanted an incomparable king, but they would see a beaten blasphemer. Or so they thought.

The sounds of the crowd this Sunday — this Palm Sunday — would later be betrayed by the sounds of their stony hearts. "Blessed is he!" would soon become "crucify him!" For this reason, there is something nauseating about today.

And as we feel the deep tragedy of their words, of their blindness, we shouldn't expect that we'd have been any different. The Pharisees and the people had their problems, and so do we. If we know our hearts apart from grace, if we could listen in on this crowd, we'd hear our shouts along with theirs. We'd hear our praise, hollow as it were, and then, by Friday, "ashamed we'd hear our mocking voice call out among the scoffers." It is not the righteous, after all, who Jesus came to save, but sinners. Sinners like us.

Blessings Pastor Jonathan

APRIL WORSHIP

Worship April 3 - 5th Sunday in Lent

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phil 3:4b-14; Jn 12:1-8

Call to Worship

Six days before the Passover, Martha served Jesus dinner at Lazarus' house. There, Mary took a pound of costly perfume and anointed Jesus' feet. What's that in the air? Mary poured her perfume on Jesus' feet and then wiped his feet with her hair. She filled the air with the fragrance of her worship. The prayers of the saints are like rising incense before God. The fragrance of their worship fills the air. Today, let us raise a praise that touches the heart of God. Let the fragrance of our worship fill the air! God, we offer our praise as a sweet fragrance that aspires to heaven. May the fragrance of our worship fill the air!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we have failed to be obedient to your Word, we have not done your will, and we have broken your law. You tell us in Isaiah: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" We confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, trusting you in the new things of our lives, and to give ourselves for others. Amen.

Worship April 10 - Palm Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Lk 19:28-40; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Lk 22:14-23:56, Lk 23:1-49

Call to Worship - Proclamation Of The Entrance Into Jerusalem.

Hear from the Gospel according to Luke how our Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem. Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Proclamation of The Passion Narrative

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Passover with the Disciples

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

APRIL WORSHIP

April 10 - Palm Sunday continued

Peter's Denial Foretold

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Jesus before the High Priest

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Peter's Denial of Jesus

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

APRIL WORSHIP

April 10 - Palm Sunday continued

Jesus Brought before Pilate

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

The Suicide of Judas

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Pilate Questions Jesus

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Barabbas or Jesus?

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

APRIL WORSHIP

April 10 - Palm Sunday continued

The Death of Jesus

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

The Burial of Jesus

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Most Gracious and Merciful God, we give you thanks for what you have done for us in Christ Jesus. We humbly repent of our sins and turn to you seeking forgiveness. Let these gifts that we now offer to you be a part of our acts of penitence, expressing our desire to follow and love you with our whole heart, mind, soul, body, and strength, as well as loving our neighbor as ourselves. We thank you for your forgiveness. May we strive to know you deeper and deeper through this Holy Week as we journey with you to the cross. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Worship April 14 - Maundy Thursday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Ex 12:1-14; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we have failed to be obedient to your Word, we have not done your will, and we have broken your law. Most merciful God, we your Church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, as we are known by our love that we follow you. Amen.

APRIL WORSHIP

Worship April 15 - Good Friday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22; Heb 10:16-25; Jn 18:1-19:42

Call To Worship

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

Prayer For Good Friday

Almighty God, graciously behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

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

Jesus before the High Priest

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

Peter Denies Jesus

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, 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. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now 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.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus 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. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

Now 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." One 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?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

APRIL WORSHIP

Worship April 15 - Good Friday - The Passion of Jesus Christ continued

Jesus before Pilate

Then 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. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate 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." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate 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?" Jesus 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." Pilate 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." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

Jesus Sentenced to Death

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. But 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?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate 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." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When 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." The Jews 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." Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate 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?" Jesus 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." From 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." When 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. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They 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." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews 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. Then 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When 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. So 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." And 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. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

APRIL WORSHIP

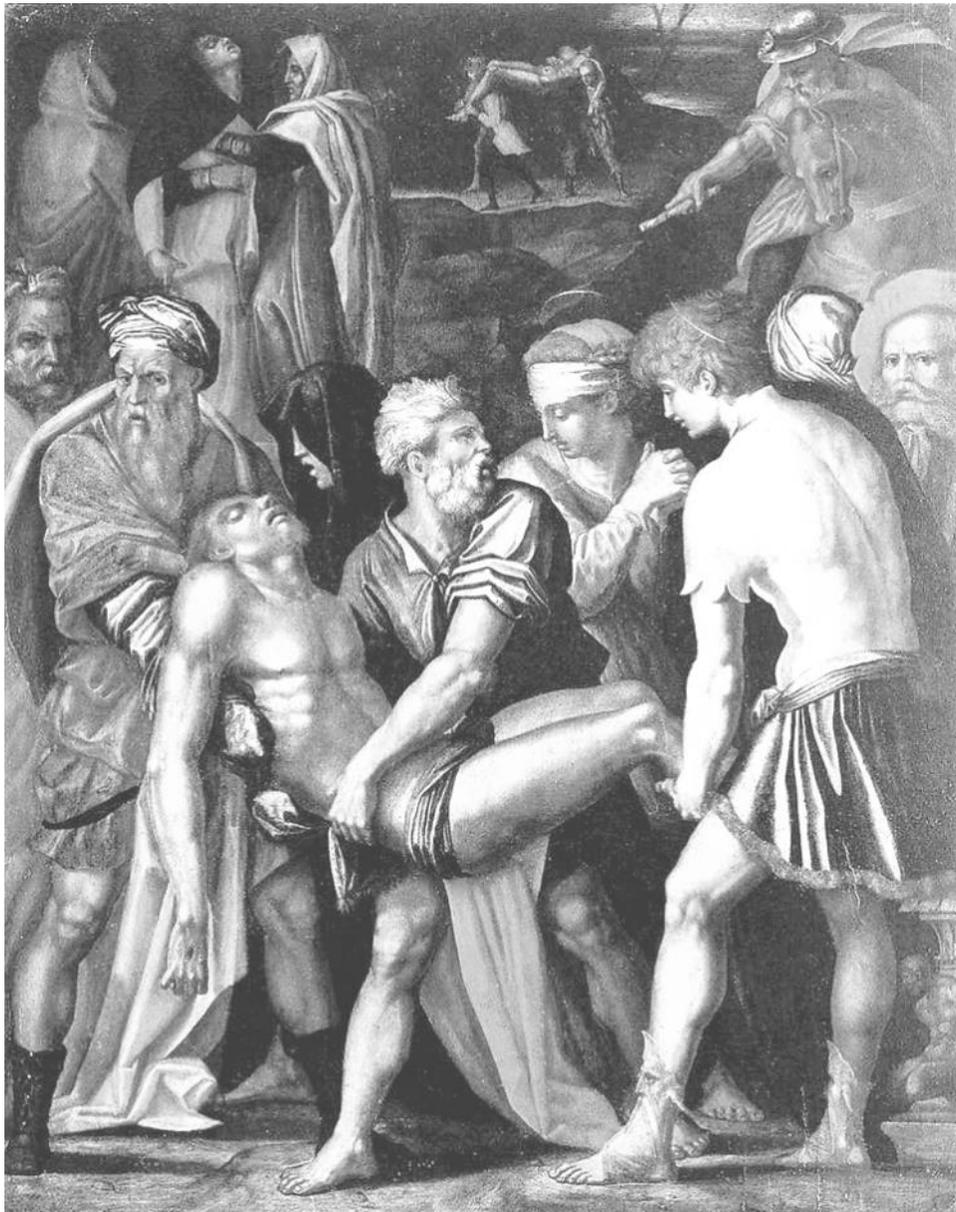
Worship April 15 - Good Friday - The Passion of Jesus Christ continued

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews 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. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

The Burial of Jesus

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now 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. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



APRIL WORSHIP

Worship April 17 - Resurrection Sunday

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26; Jn 20:1-18 or Lk 24:1-12

Call to Worship

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, your wondrous birth means nothing unless we are born again, your death and sacrifice mean nothing unless we die to sin, your resurrection means nothing if you be risen alone. We confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and enable us by His resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. Thank you for taking our Sin upon the cross to be crucified. Thank you for dying our death so that we may rise with you to new life. Thank you for shaking the ground beneath our feet to awake us to your call. Bless what we have offered to you this day so that your kingdom may spread to the ends of the earth. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit as we are sent forth to live your life and share your joy, as we give ourselves for others. Indeed, Christ is Risen as our Lord and Savior, Alleluia! Amen.

Worship April 24

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26; Jn 20:1-18 or Lk 24:1-12

Call to Worship

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, the resurrection of your Son has not pulled us far from our old ways. Our faith becomes fear in the face of the world's troubles. We trust more in the power of "the way things are" than in the new life you grant. We hesitate to speak out against wrong, convinced it will do no good. We excuse ourselves from chances to help others, fearing for our security. We stay busy with small concerns to avoid facing our shortcomings. Forgive our fears and our doubts. Plant Easter seeds in us to push through the packed, dead ground of old habits. Transform our suffering into greater faithfulness. Catch us up into the dance of your Holy Spirit, so that we may find hope and strength for the living of these days.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Victorious God, we give you thanks for not only dying and rising again for our sakes, but for calling and equipping us to do your work by the breath of your Holy Spirit. Take our gifts that we offer to you now, transform them into balm for the wounded bodies of your children. In the ministries that these gifts empower, bring forth light, bring hope out of despair and new life from certain death, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Psalm 118: 22-29 Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

P D C T O X Y T R N W C D J I W R M R V P H B H M P F K I R
J S U C X R Z H J H T S E B O Y Z E E R C I E I M C A J C O
W N A F B E N I B P R H K H L P L Q V E U I B D K R M W A V
G P E N S F E S O E A E I L K U W W E E S A W V A Z D S E E
L O R D S D O I N G S U C C E S S S S G R L V I M X R E X I
E T J W Z B Q S G B Y B X G L Y E N O V Q O I R Q G Z H T S
R W Z H R P B T N D F U E Y J B R O H N Z G F L D X N C O G
C K N Q S W P H E C I O J E R O D B N U R D G S Q Z O N L M
N X J A P I Z E S K W P D K H O D E A A U E F H E V O A Z P
N X O T F E B D J W O Z S Y U C V R M B K T N O X R G R S H
H O J P K T Z A A I D U B E B B M S E Q I C W Z C E U B K A
J C I X E Y N Y U U E D G P H G D M O V O E E K R Z C D G P
I T Z S A B K J Y R B G A J T C X Q F K H J D K N X U M N I
O U S T S Q E Z B H Y E U B R P A L T A R E I A N T H C J E
E P P S N E V J B O Y Q J X B V A Y H L B R F X L T P M G I
I F L T R F C B W J O U X J H Z I O E J D S L I W G X R V W
G G E G B B H O I W L A V H Q W S S L J S R U Q X R B Y O G
K R G G P C R O R O H R Y B S U N H O D A E B K W S S J I T
W Z K R R N I R R P D N I B E O E U R V L D O L V H W V M S
H E E X O W Y D J C L M B N W Z U N D N H L E S R T E B A F
Q D R R J C H Y Z R X A O P T O Q N O V S I W B D N U H Q I
M R C H R A J F W A J T T Z Q K K R U T R U C C U E J Y E S
B A R P S Q Q C X T S H T S A F D A E T S B J S H O N F F O
B P R M M J Q R U R H I A B E O F Y I X X M L C O F W F K M
L P A V X Z Y W E Y S A E O L F Y G D O Q I T P M E T D Q V
Z D K R E F D N G P U M N D H E G U E A G G B R Z T R M R Y
E W V M V L R V C D E K C K W B S Z P H Y Q O E H V O F U P
W F J I L O O A F N V Y Q K S H M S T Z O P F Y J M E Y X B
T Z L E C Z Q U X Q A D K U F G O R E R F V R B N U Y X Y Y
U T U R S Z K D S C S X M F A I M V V D L D R T C U X Y S C

Find the **25 bold** words or phrases from Psalm 118: 22-29

The **stone** that the **builders rejected** has become the chief **cornerstone**.

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

This is the day that the **Lord has made**;
let us **rejoice** and be **glad** in it.

Save us, we **beseech** you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us **success!** **Blessed** is the one who comes in the **name of the Lord**. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has **given us light**.
Bind the **festal procession** with **branches**, up to the **horns** of the **altar**. You are my God, and I will give **thanks** to you; you are my God, I will **extol** you. O give thanks to the Lord, for **He is good**, for his **steadfast** love **endures forever**.



Hosanna



BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!



Palm Sunday
Join us for
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Egg Hunt
following service

Potato Bar Lunch
With free will offering to
benefit children and youth
ministries.

All welcome, invite a friend

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.
Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

- January - Cereal
- February - peanut butter
- March - canned fruit
- April - mac 'n' cheese
- May - canned meat / fish
- June - canned veggies
- July - staples, rice, beans, pasta
- August - cereal
- September - peanut butter
- October - canned veggies
- November - canned 'thanksgiving'
- December - Pot Luck

The food pantry is always looking for paper products; household, babies, ladies etc
These items can be donated any time, we will get them to the food pantry for you.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the food pantry, note your check 'food pantry' and
we will take care of getting it to them for you.