

Palm/Passion Sunday

Jesus, I will ponder now
on your holy Passion;
Let your Spirit now endow
me for meditation.
Grant that I, in love and faith,
may the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain and death,
that I may not perish. LBW #115, verse 1



*Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on
a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9*

These days of Holy Week will not have a daily message. This week is a time for prayer and meditation, but not for many words. Make time to read the prayers, hymns and scripture that are provided for each day, and meditate on that. God's Holy Spirit will lead you and guide your thoughts. We hope we can make worship a special part of this week. The Triduum – the great Three Days – will be observed. Maundy Thursday we remember Christ giving a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34), and instituting the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Often these services include the formal stripping of the altar, taking away the cloths and candles and preparing for the solemnity of Good Friday. On Good Friday services may include the reading of the Passion from John's Gospel. A Good Friday tradition is the Tenebrae – the service of gathering darkness, as we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus, Holy Saturday is a day of preparation and the Great Vigil of Easter – recounting Salvation History from the beginning to the Resurrection. It reverses the gathering darkness of Tenebrae with the growing light of Christ's resurrection.

Prayer: Almighty God, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon himself and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
(Prayer of the Day for Palm/Passion Sunday – LBW #31)



Monday of Holy Week

Print thine image, pure and holy
On my heart, O Lord of Grace;
So that nothing high or lowly
Thy blest likeness can efface.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
And the Lord of all creation
Be my refuge and salvation. SBH #71

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He 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.
Isaiah 53:2b-3

Prayer:

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day for Monday of Holy Week – LBW #34)

Tuesday of Holy Week

In the hour of trial,
Jesus, plead for me,
Lest, by base denial
I depart from thee;
When thou see'st me waver,
with a look recall;
Nor from fear or favor
suffer me to fall.

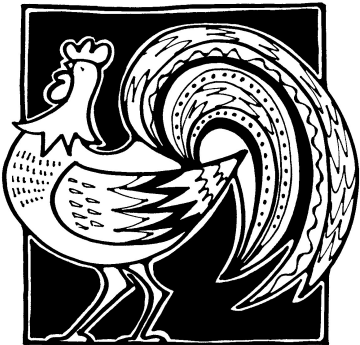
LBW #106, verse 1



Now Simon Peter was stranding 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.

John 18:25-27

DENIED THREE TIMES



L · U · K · E 22:34

Prayer:

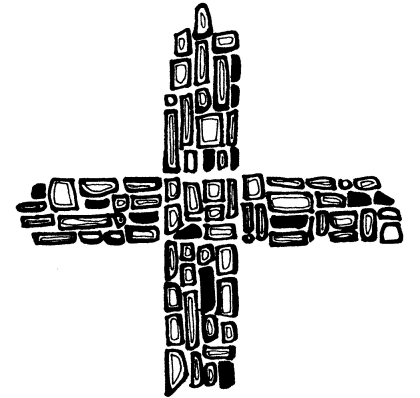
Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail you or deny you in the hour of trial. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day for Tuesday of Holy Week – LBW #35)

Wednesday of Holy Week

Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold your cross anew.
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side
Graven in our hearts forever
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

LBW #93, verse 3



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 the Skull) they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it he would not drink it. Matthew 27:32-34

Prayer:

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of mortals and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day for Wednesday of Holy Week – LBW #36)

Maundy Thursday

It happened on that fateful night,
When pow'rs of earth and hell arose
Against the Son, our God's delight,
And friends betrayed him to his foes.

Before the bitter scene began,
He took the bread, and blest and broke.
What love through all his actions ran!
What wondrous words of love he spoke!
LBW #127, verses 1-2



"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." John 13:34-35

For I received from the Lord Jesus what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was handed over took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he 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 this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. I Corinthians 11:23-26

Prayer: Holy God, source of all love, on the night he was handed over, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit, write this commandment in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord God, in a wonderful Sacrament you left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Prayers of the Day for Maundy Thursday – LBW #37 & 38)

Good Friday

O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown.
O sacred head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

LBW #117, verse 1



When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right side and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." . . . It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."
Luke 23:33-34, 44-47

Prayer: Almighty God, we ask you to look with 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, now and forever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you carried our sins in your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now, and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Prayers of the Day for Good Friday – LBW #39 & 40)



Rejoice now, all heavenly choirs of angels,
 and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;
 and, for the victory of so great a King,
 sound the trumpet of salvation.

Exult also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance;
 and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King,
 know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world.

Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light,
 and let his house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.

Wherefore, dearly beloved, who stand in the clarity of this bright and holy light,
 join with me, I ask you, in praising the lovingkindness of almighty God;
 through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands For our offenses given,
 But now at God's right hand he stands And brings us life from heaven.
 Therefore let us joyful be, And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree — so strong his love — to save us.
 See, his blood now marks our door, Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us. Hallelujah!

LBW #134, verses 1 & 3

Easter Day – the Resurrection of Our Lord

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious Head!
 Sing his praises! Alleluia!
 Christ is risen from the dead! LBW #131

Prayer: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for
 our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection
 you delivered us from the power of death.
 Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the
 joy of the resurrection;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
 (Prayer of the Day for The Resurrection of our Lord – LBW #62)

