

**Mary Mother of Jesus
Inclusive
Catholic Community
Liturgy of the Palms
March 23, 2024**

Liturgy Team: Jim & Cheryl (IT) Brandi, Lee Breyer, Ann Cooke, Anna Davis, Den, Jan, & Michael Rigdon, Andrea Seabaugh

Gathering Song 🎵 **Jerusalem My Destiny** by Rory Cooney
<https://youtu.be/mG6thyHErVc?si=Gza4ioy27kkBy35W>

Lee: Welcome to Mary Mother of Jesus,
our inclusive Catholic Community, our church without walls.

**“Whoever you are, wherever you are,
you are welcome at our table.”**

Thank you for joining together to celebrate the start of Holy Week.

Lee & All: Let us begin together ☩ in the name of God our creator,
Jesus our brother, and Spirit Sophia. Amen.

Andrea: Let us welcome one another with a sign of Christ’s peace:

All: Namaste, Namaste, Namaste. May Christ’s peace be with us!

Andrea. Peace before us, Peace behind us, Peace under our feet.
Peace within us, Peace over us, Let all around us be Peace.

Opening Prayer. Den. O Holy One, may we be aware of powerful domination systems in our world—racism, misogyny, patriarchy. May we be transformed today and this Holy Week by our participation in your dying and resurrecting into workers for justice and equity of all.

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

Jim. A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt

tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Teacher needs the colt, and will return it right away.'"

They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and Jesus mounted.

The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

Jesus entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple and looked around, taking it all in. By now it was late, so Jesus went back to Bethany with the Twelve. These are Gospel writer Mark's words, and we respond,

Thanks be to God! [Excerpt From: Eugene H Peterson, *The Message*](#)

Ann. A Reading from *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Chapter 1, *Palm Sunday*.

Thus we have the twofold theme that leads to Palm Sunday. Genuine discipleship, following Jesus, means following him to Jerusalem, the place of (1) confrontation with the **domination system** and (2) **death and resurrection**. These are the two themes of the week that follows, Holy Week. Indeed, these are the two themes of Lent and of the Christian life.

Two processions entered Jerusalem on that day. The same question, the same alternative, faces those who would be faithful to Jesus today.

Which procession are we in? Which procession do we want to be in? This is the question of Palm Sunday and of the week that is about to unfold. These are the inspiring words of Marcus Borg & Dominic Crossan, and we all respond: **Thanks be to God!**

Shared Homily. Michael & Community

Jan & All. Profession of Faith.

We believe in God, the creator of the universe,
the fountain of life, flowing through every being.

We believe in Jesus the Christ
who reflects the face of God and the fullness of humanity.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God in the cosmos,
who calls us to loving service without counting the cost.
We believe in our global communion with all in the circle of life.
Amen to loving actions on behalf of justice, healing,
compassion and equality for all in our world!
We are called to be light to the world!

Prayers of the Community

Andrea: Aware that the Holy One is present within us and works through us, we bring to the table our intentions.

Response: We remember and we pray.

We bring to the table the many families and children who suffer due to war in the Ukraine and in Gaza and Israel, **R.**

We bring to the table the hundreds of thousands of displaced, starving women & children in Gaza. May governments overcome the domination system that threatens so many. **R.**

We bring to the table the seriously ill, particularly members of MMOJ and our family and friends. **R.**

Joan M. We bring to the table the petitions in our MMOJ prayer book, especially....

Andrea. And who/what else do we bring to the table today? **R.**

We can do all things in the power of the Spirit working through us. **All:**
Amen

Offering of Our Gifts at the table *Have bread and wine on your table*

Anna. O Holy One, we bring you our gifts from creation, bread of the grain and wine of the grapes. We recognize that they are holy in you their creator. And we know that they will make us holy, one with you and one with each other.

Michael. Please join in song to begin our **Eucharistic Prayer**

 Here in This Place <https://youtu.be/sqkWXOSGm0Q>

Lee & All, *with hand extended in blessing:* As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Spirit Sophia on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body, healing and making us whole. And that we may become for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen.

Ann & All: On the night before he died, while at supper with his friends, Jesus took bread said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying, "Take 🍞 and eat. This is my very self." (Pause) Jesus then raised high the cup of blessing and offered them the wine with these words, "Take and drink 🍷 of the covenant made new through my life for you and for everyone. Whenever you do this, remember me."

Anna & All: Remember, gracious God, your Church throughout the world. Open us to welcome everyone. In union with all people, may we strive to create a world where suffering is diminished, and where all people can live in health and wholeness. Thru Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, gracious God. Amen

Michael This is Jesus, God with us, loving us forever. All are invited to partake of this sacred banquet of love. **All:** We are the Body of Christ. **All** sing 🎵: Holy gifts for holy people, come you hungry and believe. Come receive Christ's body offered, come and be what you receive(x2)

Communion Instrumental 🎵 Sentinel Meadow, Mars Lasar
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=B9JFOEcq1GA&fea> 2:33

Jim: We pray our common prayer that Jesus taught us:

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your will be done by all created beings!

May your beloved community of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.

*Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa.
This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians*

Prayers of Thanksgiving Announcements

Final Blessing. *With hand extended in prayer*

Andrea & All: Peace before us, Peace behind us, Peace under our feet
Peace within us, Peace over us, Let all around us be Peace.
Love before us, Love behind us, Love under our feet
Love within us, Love over us, Let all around us be Love.
Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet,
Christ within us, Christ over us, Let all around us be Christ!

Lee. Go in the peace of Christ. Let us bring God's reign of peace and
compassion to all those we meet!

All: Thanks be to God.

Final Song 🎵 Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth

https://youtu.be/sDpByzZqeQ4?si=H0rT4_0IT7C_CAv-

To support our community, please send your check to:

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