

# Sunday, March 28, 2021

## Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday, Year B

### Introduction

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

### 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.**

### Processional Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

### First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>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 awakens—  
awakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

## **Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16**

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;  
I am as useless as a | broken pot. R**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.  
I have said, “You | are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.” R**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Gospel: Mark 14:1--15:47**

*The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.*

<sup>1</sup>It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup>for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

<sup>3</sup>While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open

the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

<sup>12</sup>On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup>So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, <sup>14</sup>and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." <sup>16</sup>So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup>When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." <sup>19</sup>They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" <sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup>For 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."

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup>When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup>And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep will be scattered.'

<sup>28</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>29</sup>Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." <sup>30</sup>Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." <sup>31</sup>But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. <sup>34</sup>And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." <sup>35</sup>And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." <sup>37</sup>He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? <sup>38</sup>Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup>And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup>And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup>He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

<sup>43</sup>Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. <sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. <sup>47</sup>But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? <sup>49</sup>Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup>All of them deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, <sup>52</sup>but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. <sup>54</sup>Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. <sup>55</sup>Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. <sup>56</sup>For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. <sup>57</sup>Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" <sup>59</sup>But even on this point their testimony did not agree. <sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" <sup>61</sup>But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" <sup>62</sup>Jesus said, "I am; and

'you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of the Power,'  
and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

<sup>63</sup>Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? <sup>64</sup>You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as

deserving death. <sup>65</sup>Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." <sup>68</sup>But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup>And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup>But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." <sup>71</sup>But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." <sup>72</sup>At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

<sup>15:1</sup>As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup>Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup>But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

<sup>6</sup>Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup>Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup>So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup>Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup>But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup>Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup>They shouted back, "Crucify him!" <sup>14</sup>Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup>They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup>Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him, and

divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

<sup>25</sup>It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup>The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup>And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup>save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup>In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup>Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

<sup>40</sup>There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

<sup>42</sup>When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup>Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup>Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup>When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup>Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. <sup>47</sup>Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

## Sermon

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

When I was growing up this day was known only as Palm Sunday. The gospel reading was only the first part of what we now read. That may have been the experience you grew up with as well.

So, why did the church in its infinite wisdom add Passion Sunday to Palm Sunday? The only answer I've ever gotten as I've asked this question is that the church became painfully aware that fewer and fewer people were attending Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. This, of course, meant that if they attended worship service on Palm Sunday and not Holy Week services the next worship service they attended began with the Easter proclamation. They missed what happened between Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the finding of the empty tomb.

And it appears that the church created Palm/Passion Sunday so that worshippers would have a richer experience and be cognizant of the events of Holy Week as they played out so very long ago.

To that I say "Amen." Someone once said that you cannot have Easter morning without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And that sentiment contains a great deal of truth.

It is very common to look at the time beginning with Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday as our Lenten Journey. And so, it is. And it is wise for us to journey through the days of Holy Week as we move ever closer to events that seem incomprehensible, that seem beyond our ability to accept.

These events give us the proper perspective as we walk to the empty grave on Easter Sunday and discover, with the others, the empty tomb. It is only then that we can joyously shout the Easter Proclamation.

So, let us continue our Lenten Journey 2021. The Processional Gospel text today from Mark is the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem for the last time. And we are bystanders outside of Jerusalem as people are laying down cloaks and leafy branches and together those amassed proclaim; "Hosanna. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Hosanna in the highest heaven."

What a wonderful scene. Jesus, riding triumphantly into the Holy City, being hailed as the Messiah, the long-awaited Messiah sent by God to save God's people. We rejoice and we marvel as we stand in that crowd. Our hearts are overcome with joy.

We think back to the gospels of this Lenten season and understand how great a teacher Jesus was, how he had compassion for all, how he had hatred for no one. We also recall the miracles that Jesus performed. We rally around the hope that Jesus gave to those of his time, those he met and interacted with and how that same hope is here for us and for all who will call upon his name.

It is good for us to stand in this crowd of supporters who bow down and honor their king. There are a great number of folks who have gathered, and the atmosphere is electric. We are indeed fortunate to be here.

However, we cannot stay. The crowd dissipates. People move on. They are thrilled to have been part of this parade that highlighted their Lord and Savior.

We move on to the events of the week. We begin to hear grumblings against Jesus. The sentiment seems to grow with each new day. We don't know what to make of it all, but we know that the king we celebrated at the city gates is beginning to draw hatred and disrespect from more and more folks and officials in the city. We begin to worry. We cannot grasp the import of it all. We are confused. We simply want everyone in the city to acknowledge that this rabbi Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Why can't they all see that?

As the week drones by you and I walk with Jesus and his followers through the name-calling, through the mockery of a trial, through the name calling, the scourging, the brutal walk to the hill of crucifixion. We watch with disbelief as the innocent Jesus is hung on the cross amid two criminals who were certainly guilty as charged.

And we simply cannot look away as Jesus hangs on the cross, as he suffers, as he converses with others, as he speaks to those present and with his heavenly Father.

And we are present when Jesus breathes his last, as he moves from the earthly realm to the heavenly realm. We cannot move. We cannot leave. We stay and watch as the cross is lowered and as Jesus is removed from it and placed in a borrowed grave.

And now we have no choice. We finally leave the scene. But we cannot, we will not forget what we have witnessed this week in the Holy City. The events are planted in our psyche forever.

It is appropriate to feel a bit schizophrenic just about now. We have gone from joyous celebration to the death of the Messiah in a few days.

I believe it is important for each of us to remember that as God the Father did not forsake Jesus even as he hung on the cross bearing the sins of the world forever, God has not, and God will not abandon us. He continues to be with us to encourage us to celebrate all that needs to be celebrated, including our faith.

He is continually with us to encourage us, to walk hand in hand with us as we once again move through the streets of Jerusalem trying to make sense of the unthinkable. He is with us through the incredible gift of his Spirit to allow us to walk with our heads held high, rejoicing that there is another day to come, and soon. That day will be a day of true celebration. It will be a day of rejoicing, of life-changing significance. It will be the beginning of not only a new day, but a new way of living. It will give us a new reality that did not exist before.

That reality is the reality you and I live with daily. But first we need to move step by step to arrive at this new life in Christ.

You and I move through the last days of Jesus' life more and more able to understand that Jesus is living the life that God the Father had in mind for him before he was born.

Jesus is living out the final days of his mission and ministry among us as we move from scene-to-scene day by day. One phase of his ministry is ending, but a new one is about to begin. Jesus promises his followers life, and not just life, but life abundant. And for that we can celebrate even in the midst of things we cannot understand, be they events of Holy Week so long ago, or be they the times and trial we are now living through.

God never, ever abandoned Jesus. God has promised to never abandon us. With the week ahead of us, and with our hearts and minds full of faith, may we celebrate the love of God within and among us.

Thanks be to God. Amen

## Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change (*especially*), grant relief from natural disasters (*especially*), and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer (*especially*); grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**