

The Litany of St. Joseph

During the Year of Saint Joseph, the Litany of Saint Joseph has been included among other prayers enriched with a plenary indulgence. In addition to praying it before our liturgies, we are encouraged to pray this throughout the week.

Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, have mercy.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, hear us.	<i>Christ, graciously hear us.</i>
God the Father of Heaven,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Holy Spirit,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Trinity, One God,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Mary,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Joseph,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Noble Offspring of David,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Light of Patriarchs,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Spouse of the Mother of God,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Foster-Father of the Son of God,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Zealous Defender of Christ,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Head of the Holy Family,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Just,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Chaste,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Prudent,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Courageous,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Obedient,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Joseph most Faithful,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Mirror of Patience,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Lover of Poverty,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Model of Workmen,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Glory of Domestic Life,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Guardian of Virgins,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Pillar of Families,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Comfort of the Afflicted,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Hope of the Sick,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Patron of the Dying,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Terror of Demons,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Protector of the Holy Church,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>Spare us, O Lord!</i>
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>Graciously hear us, O Lord!</i>
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>Have mercy on us!</i>

DAILY & WEEKEND MASSES

Monday-Friday at *7:30am

Tuesday-Thursday at 5:30pm

Saturday at *8:00am and 5:00pm(Vigil)

Sunday at *7:30am, *9:00am and 11:00am

First Fridays at 5:30pm

**These Masses are live-streamed on our parish website.*

MASKS ARE REQUIRED. (*Exempt conditions apply.*)

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Confession is offered at our regularly scheduled times in the Adoration Chapel in accordance with social distancing procedures.

Monday-Friday: 7:00-7:20am,

Tuesday-Thursday: 5:00-5:20pm, Saturday: 8:30-9:30am

1154 SEMINOLE AVENUE | WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

PARISH OFFICE PHONE: 651-457-2781

PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: 952-930-4727

PARISH WEBSITE: CHURCHOFSTJOSEPH.ORG

V. He made him the lord of His household,
R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let Us Pray. *O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE LORD'S PRAYER SERIES: "THY WILL BE DONE"



When Jesus instructs his disciples to pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," he is inviting us to pray that his Father's will is realized on two levels, in the world and within ourselves. Regarding the former, we are asking that the loving plan of God to gather us to himself, accomplished in Jesus' death and resurrection, would be fully realized on earth as it is already with the saints in heaven. It signifies the full triumph of God's grace and the regeneration of creation.

The second dimension, praying that God's will is realized within us, is where we especially feel the impact of what this petition asks. One of the obvious ways this petition is fulfilled is when we follow God's commandments, reflected in the teachings of the Church. Yet, on a more general level, let us reflect for a moment on the following: We are praying not that *our* will is accomplished but that *God's* will is accomplished in our lives. What this implies is that my priorities and my plans are to be shaped first *not by my desires* but *by God's desires*. Practically, when I start my day, do I ask, "What do I want or need to do today?" or "What does God desire me to do today?" When we ask children about their future, do we ask, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" or do we ask, "What does God want you to be when you grow up?" Framing these questions from the divine perspective opens our desires and plans to a whole new cosmological level!

We desire to do God's will, and we pray that his will is accomplished in the world and in us because God's will is the best thing for us, for it is the way in which we will receive our greatest good, salvation! Just as when we were children, we are not always aware of what we need for God's salvation to be realized in us. When God's will seems to be challenging or when God permits life's circumstances to be other than we would desire, these are opportunities to trust and to abandon ourselves into the arms of our Father God. As we enter Holy Week and meditate on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, we ask Jesus for the grace to abandon ourselves to the will of the Father, just as he did with his human will. We can pray, "Jesus, through you, help me to unite my will to the Father's will."

Fr. Timothy Wratkowski



PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is in the main church during the hours of 6:00am-10:00pm and in the Chapel from 10:00pm-6:00am.

When there is a funeral, wedding or other event, Adoration will in the Chapel. The number of adorers in the chapel is limited to 8.

Guests adorers are welcome to visit from 6:00am-9:00pm. If you would like to be an adorer with a dedicated hour each week, please see the hours where there is need.

Contact Teresa Boland at 651-552-0168 or 651-307-9177.

ADORERS ARE NEEDED

Your life will be changed by spending time with Jesus.

The following hours need an assigned, dedicated adorer as soon as possible. Jesus is never outdone in generosity!

Mondays:	10:00-11:00am; 3:00-4:00pm;
Wednesdays:	2:00-3:00pm; 7:00-8:00pm;
Thursdays:	12:00-1:00pm;
Fridays:	5:00-6:00pm;
Saturdays:	3:00-4:00pm; 4:00-5:00pm.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL ADJUSTMENTS

What a tremendous joy to see many of our parishioners start to return back in-person to the Church of St. Joseph! Welcome back! You have been missed!

In recent weeks, we have received updated Liturgical Guidelines from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship. Combined with current recommendations from the CDC and MDH, and the decreasing infection rates in our community, we have reevaluated some of our current practices in light of this new information – and we share with you some very modest, incremental changes we will be implementing to our plan.

Though indoor congregational singing is still not fully recommended, there are some new opportunities for exceptions. We will be allowing our youth group, to participate in some limited singing at their Wednesday evening gatherings, with face coverings and distancing as still recommended. Though the Sunday congregation is still only singing some basic chant and responses, we are also considering limited congregational singing at some upcoming special liturgies.

Regarding our maintenance protocols, as the CDC continues to adjust their recommendations based upon their understanding of the virus, we have decided to start limiting our frequency of sanitizing the pews – specifically starting with the normal cleaning after the evening Masses. We will continue to sanitize after the morning Mass and on Sundays between services, but no longer in the evenings. We are incredibly grateful to have our polar ionization units installed in our HVAC systems to continue purifying the air within the church. Additional disinfectant wipes will be made available in the back of church for anyone who still desires to self-clean their personal worship space at any time.

In a similar manner, we have introduced some modest adjustments to our safety protocols within the school and faith formation. As we continue to consider prudent modifications to our plan for managing the pandemic at the Church of St. Joseph, we ask for your patience, understanding and continued prayers.

Holy Week



CONFESSIONS:

Monday-Wednesday | 7:00-7:20am
Tuesday-Wednesday | 5:00-5:20pm

MASSES:

*Monday-Wednesday | 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday | 5:30pm
*Live-streamed on Facebook & at churchofstjoseph.org

TRIDUUM & EASTER

To accommodate you and your family in this busy season, Pre-Registration is required for our Triduum & Easter Liturgies at churchofstjoseph.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

*Tenebrae - Morning Prayer & Office of Readings | 7:30am
Chrism Mass at Cathedral of St. Paul | 10:00am
*Mass of the Lord's Supper | 5:30pm and 7:30pm
*Eucharistic Adoration until Midnight

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

*Tenebrae - Morning Prayer & Office of Readings | 7:30am
*Stations of the Cross | 12:00noon
*Communion Service & Veneration of the Cross | 3:00pm and 5:00pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

*Tenebrae - Morning Prayer & Office of Readings | 8:00am
*Easter Vigil Mass | 8:00pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Easter Sunday Masses | *7:30am, *9:00am, *11:00am, 12:30pm and 4:00pm
*Live-streamed on Facebook & at churchofstjoseph.org

Year of St. Joseph

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH ~ MAY 1, 2021

We will begin 33 Days of Preparation on March 30.
Books are available at the Parish Center for \$5.

We invite you to participate with your parish and school family, as we remain united in prayer in this blessed Year of St. Joseph!

We are celebrating 30 Years of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

TUESDAY, APRIL 20
5:30pm MASS with
Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Our parish family has been blessed by the gift of Eucharistic Adoration, established on April 21, 1991.

All are invited to join us in celebrating!



THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

The Church will celebrate this great feast on Sunday, April 11.

Location: *St. John Neumann
Time: 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Co-sponsored by St. John Neumann, St. Joseph (West Saint Paul), and St. Peter (Mendota)

*Livestream link: <https://www.sjn.org/online-worship-information>



In the Diary of St. Faustina, Jesus asked that the Feast of Divine Mercy, known today as Divine Mercy Sunday, be preceded by a Novena to The Divine Mercy, beginning on Good Friday.

A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. In the case of the Novena to The Divine Mercy, we pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy each day for a specific intention.

Our Lord told St. Faustina, "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw ... strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209).

- Day 1 (Good Friday) – All mankind, especially sinners
- Day 2 (Holy Saturday) – The souls of priests and religious
- Day 3 (Easter Sunday) – All devout and faithful souls
- Day 4 (Easter Monday) – Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
- Day 5 (Easter Tuesday) – The souls of those separated from the Church
- Day 6 (Easter Wednesday) – The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- Day 7 (Easter Thursday) – The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- Day 8 (Easter Friday) – The souls in purgatory
- Day 9 (Easter Saturday) – The souls who have become lukewarm.

THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Opening Prayer: *You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed for souls, and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us. I trust in You!*

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary The Apostles Creed.
2. On the Our Father Beads say the following: *Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*
3. On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following: *For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.* (Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).
4. Conclude with (three times): *Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world*

Closing Prayer: *Eternal God, in whom Mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your Holy Will, which is Love and Mercy itself.*

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

The mission of St. Joseph's School is to educate students through faith formation, academic excellence, and the development of virtue to be disciples of Christ.

LENT

During this season of Lent, our students continue to grow in their faith and prepare for Easter through classroom study, daily prayer including the Rosary, celebrating Mass, Stations of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd instruction. We thank Fr. Creagan and Fr. Wratkowski, St. Joseph's School faculty, the CGS Catechists, and our students' parents for supporting them on their journey.

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT - DIAPER DRIVE FOR WAKOTA GUIDING STAR CENTER

St. Joseph's School and the Church of St. Joseph have an important and on-going relationship with Wakota, a Guiding Star Center in West St. Paul. Wakota provides women and families compassionate, life affirming care and support. Our community supports the mission of this local organization through various efforts throughout the year and through seasonal works of mercy. We are happy to announce that our Lenten diaper drive was a great success this past week and we were able to deliver the generous donations to Wakota. Thank you to all who participated!

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

We invite you to join our school community! Registration for next school year is now open. Families can contact our school office at 651-457-8550 to schedule a virtual visit or go to our website stjosephwsp.org to learn more about our Preschool through grade 8 programs. In addition, families may find our application at: stjosephwsp.org/apply.

COMMITTED TO AFFORDABILITY

St. Joseph's School is committed to providing outstanding academic formation for our students, rooted in a deep love for Christ and His Church. We recognize that this mission requires cooperative investment and sacrifice from both our families, benefactors, and the parish community. We are committed to making a St. Joseph education *affordable for all families* who desire a faithful Catholic education.

To learn more about our financial aid program or to discuss enrollment, please contact Lindsay Mayernik, Enrollment Coordinator, at 651.789.8315 or limayernik@stjosephwsp.org.

Register Online Today!

stjosephwsp.org/apply



ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE ~ FOOD COLLECTION

In honor of the Feast of St. Joseph we collected 2,040 pounds of food and \$2310.00. Thank you for your continued generosity which benefits those in our community and those served by Neighbors, Inc.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION

Let us answer the Holy Father's request to be united with faithful throughout the world:

April Prayer Intention: "Fundamental Rights"

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and democracies in crisis.

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions (Offeritory) – including mailed gifts, EFT's, stocks, and IRA's

March 20-21, 2021 - \$39,262.50

2020-21: Actual through March 21, 2021 - \$1,391,601.50

2019-20: Actual through March 31, 2020 - \$1,439,595.28

Stewardship Options: Located near the baptismal font entry upon arrival and by the west exit at the end of weekend liturgies is a wooden offertory box. Donations may also be placed in the black locked offertory box located near the entry of the Adoration Chapel during the week, or at the parish office during regular business hours. We are grateful to the faithful who choose to mail in their contributions on a regular basis and use our online options at www.churchofstjoseph.org/donate. If you need assistance with giving, please contact the parish office at 651.457.2781.

God bless you for your tremendous generosity to the Church of St. Joseph.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

We ask you to remember all our faithful departed and their families.

May they rest eternally in the peace of Christ.

MARRIAGE BANNES:

Let us pray for all entering the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony:

I - Michael Peterson & Katie Debele

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The Parish Center office hours for Holy Week are:

Monday – Thursday: 8:00am to 4:00pm;

Good Friday, April 2: closed

Your calls will be received and monitored at 651-457-2781 and returned Monday-Thursday, 8:00am to 4:00pm; Mail continues to be received at the Parish Center.

STAY CONNECTED

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/churchofstjosephwsp

INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/churchofstjosephwspmn/

VIMEO: vimeo.com/churchstjosephwstpaul

MY PARISH APP: Text APP to 88202; Select "St. Joseph" and "Archdiocesan Synod" for updates and notifications.

FLOCKNOTE

Receive emails and/or text messages from your parish—you decide how you want to be contacted and make changes as you'd like. It's free to use, simply take a few minutes to sign up or make changes to your contact information:

churchofstjosephwsp.flocknote.com

Text "STJOESWSP" to 84576 to sign up!



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

We appreciate your donation for Easter flowers and environment decorations. Please fill out this form and return to the Parish Center or place in the collection box at Mass.

PLEASE PRINT.

Your Name(s) _____

In Memory of _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 28

7:30am †Jerry Boland
9:00am †Shelly Hughes
11:00am All members of the parish

Monday, March 29

7:30am †Helen & †Elmer Henkel

Tuesday, March 30

7:30am Joseph Grady
5:30pm †Anne Corlis Miller

Wednesday, March 31

7:30am †Thomas Yentz
5:30pm †Dorothy Kaufenberg

SFE TRIDUUM AND EASTER LITURGIES SCHEDULE

MASS READINGS & OBSERVANCE

For the Week of March 28

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
Holy Week begins

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17
[cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/
Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: *Chrim Mass:* Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
[2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/
1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Holy Thursday;
April Fools' Day

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
[Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
Good Friday;
Day of fasting and abstinence

Saturday: *Vigil:* Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10,
12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22
[5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8,
9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18
[1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/
Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/
Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or
Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/
Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7
Holy Saturday

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or
Lk 24:13-35
Easter Sunday

CLERGY & STAFF

PARISH CENTER

Pastor ▪ Rev. Michael Creagan.....651-457-2781
Parochial Vicar ▪ Rev. Tim Wratkowski.....651-457-2781
Deacon ▪ Mr. Thomas Michaud.....651-457-2781
Deacon ▪ Mr. Jerry Scherkenbach.....651-457-2781
Deacon ▪ Mr. Gregg Sroder.....651-457-2781
Priest in Residence ▪ Rev. Steven Hoffman.....651-457-2781
Teaching Seminarian ▪ Mr. Scott Padrnos.....651-457-2781
Parish Administrator ▪ Patrick Menke.....651-789-8349
Pastoral Care ▪ Jennifer Mak.....651-789-8359
Pastoral Care Associate ▪ Cindy Schlichting.....651-789-8358
Parish Secretary ▪ Jeri Nulty.....651-789-8350
Communications ▪ Ann Osendorf.....651-789-8376
Liturgical Music ▪ Denis Allaire.....651-789-8355

FINANCIAL

Accounts Payable & Receivable ▪ Megan Hire...651-789-8351
Cashier ▪ Jo Burr.....651-457-2781

FAITH FORMATION

Catechesis & Formation ▪ Christina Stokman.....651-457-8841
Faith Formation Secretary ▪ Anne Garner.....651-457-8841
Senior High Youth Ministry ▪ Pat Millea.....651-789-8356
Middle School Ministry ▪ Jake DeBolt.....651-789-8352

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

School Principal ▪ Greg Wesely.....651-457-8550
Assistant Principal ▪ Cathi Budge.....651-457-8550
School Office Manager ▪ Lisa Wrobel.....651-457-8550



R.C.I.A.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Monday evening | March 29

Location: Msgr. Foran Great Room

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process by which someone discerns a relationship with Jesus in the Catholic Church. Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact us at rcia@churchofstjoseph.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SJY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Wednesdays | 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Msgr. Foran Great Room

Bring a mask, invite a friend and get ready for a beautiful night of faith & knowledge!

Contact Pat Millea: pat.millea@churchofstjoseph.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Living in the World

Monday, March 29, 4:30-5:30pm

Location: *Virtual*

Contact Jake DeBolt: jake.debolt@churchofstjoseph.org

ANNOUNCING EXTREME FAITH CAMP 2021!

Visit the parish website for more information

CRIBS & CAR SEATS

Gently used infant car seats and cribs (less than 6 yrs. old) are needed. Contact: Margee at 651-227-2076.

WE ARE A PRAYING FAMILY!

St. Joseph Prayer Team will receive your special prayer intentions. Call 651-882-2340 or 651-303-4763.

PASTORAL EMERGENCY

For after hour emergencies: 952-930-4727

READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

At the Procession with Palms

GOSPEL

Mk 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

FIRST READING

Is 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him."

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O LORD, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: "You who fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Phil 2:8-9

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

GOSPEL (Shorter version)

Mk 15:1-39

As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply, "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted again, "Crucify him." Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha — which is translated Place of the Skull — They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. *Here all kneel and pause for a short time.* The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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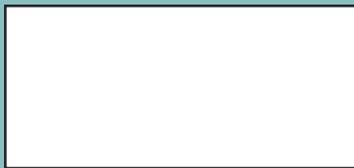
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