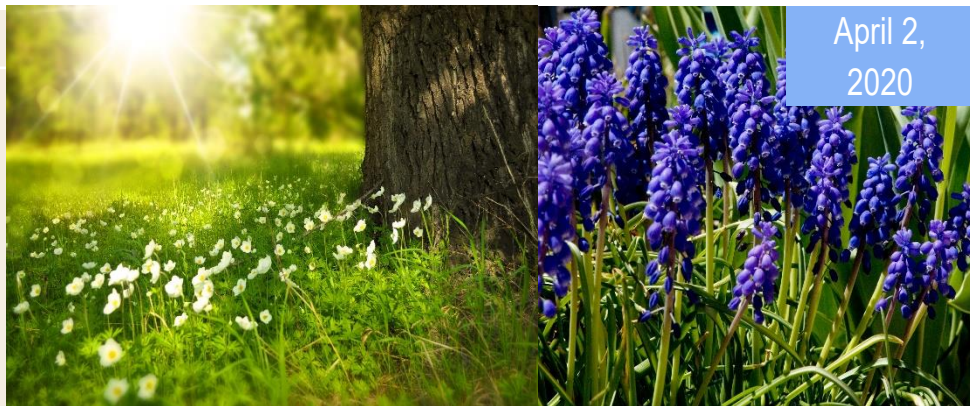


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April 2,
2020

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 E. Ninth St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

The Steeple



A Word from Father Steve

Phone: 918-330-6108 email: fathersdhood@gmail.com

The Reverend William Barnwell, an Episcopal priest in New Orleans, has died of complications from COVID-19. He was in his early 80s. Bill was known among the clergy as a radical. He organized marches and protests and boycotts, and if there was a marginalized group or a hint of exploitation or oppression, Bill would be in the midst of the people, providing encouragement and hope, and taking action. Hill Riddle, the former rector of Trinity Church in New Orleans, where Bill worked as a priest for many years, was asked how Bill got away with all of his political and social activism at a church with so many well connected and wealthy members who were often the focus of Bill's protests. Hill responded, "He does his pastoral work. He shows up at the hospital. He listens when people have problems. He's always taking communion to the homebound. He is always serving. People might disagree or get angry with Bill, yet they trust him because they know he loves them. They know he cares—because he does his pastoral work. He loves all God's people."

I write to you about Bill because he was a priest I knew and admired. I looked to him as a guide, an elder, and a reliable source. He is the second person I know personally who has died from complications from COVID-19, and his death magnifies for me the importance in our current situation of following social distancing guidelines and adhering to Bishop Ed's directive to keep the churches closed. I don't want to live in a state of constant grief for those that will die, so we have to do what we can to save lives, maybe even our own life.

I know this pains many of you and you have been working on ways around Bishop Ed's directive. I empathize with you; however, I have to hold my ground and enforce the Bishop's edict. This virus is very serious and the longer people ignore the directives to stay home, the longer officials and others will require us to stay home. I know that virtual church does not replace being together, and I know you are worried about the poor and vulnerable and the elderly. But, the situation will only get worse for all of us in the long term if we don't make some shorter term sacrifices.

So, what about Holy Week? Well, St. Luke's will offer Morning Prayer on Sunday morning at 10 am on the Zoom app. Additionally, a short liturgy will be send out via email for doing a Palm Sunday liturgy at home. If you have the desire, you can walk around your backyard waving branches of your choice. On Maundy Thursday, there will be a mediation posted on Facebook and YouTube, and I'm working on a foot-washing liturgy that can be done at home. On Good Friday, a live noon day service will be offered on the Zoom app, and the nave will be open all day for private devotions and for walking the Way of the Cross. Please remember to wipe with a disinfecting wipe any surfaces you touch or places you sit while in the church. Finally, we will worship on Easter Morning on the Zoom app at 10:00 am.

Finally, I trust you to create your own rituals of faith and to use your time at home to read the Bible and to pray. As Episcopalians, we assert that baptism unites us in the priesthood of all believers, so please lay claim to your own gifts to nurture your

A Word from Father Steve *(continued)*

faith and encourage it with those around you. If you don't have a *Book of Common Prayer*, please come and get one from the church while the chapel is open. You can let me or Roseanne know you have taken one via text or email, and we will remind you to return it when we reopen for public worship.

Christ's Peace, Father Steve+

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." *St. Paul, Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 5*

Birdsong

By Guest Columnist Mother Andrea Jones

I walk early during Oklahoma's hot summers. From six o'clock a.m. onward, the heat builds by the minute to nearly unbearable by noon. Walking before the sun has risen up over the trees is almost too late. One advantage to early walks is being serenaded by the birdsong. Each bird greets the day with its own unique call and often, at its own set time. First the Cardinals, then the Robins. Soon after the Mourning Doves, then the crows (not too musical), and joining the chorus the Titmouse; whose call sounds like he is saying "Teacher, teacher, teacher."

Now that August is approaching, the Robins have quit calling "Cheery (up), Cheery (up), Cheerup (down); their babies are out of the nest and it is time to go south. What would it be like if humans began their days singing? Scientists say, birds sing to stake out their nesting territory, challenging in their unique song, another bird of their species to fight if they get close to their nest or take food from their lawn. That colorful plumage is only to attract the female bird for family planning. Which is probably true, on one level. However, when beautiful things are reduced to scientific pronouncements, some of the wonder in their existence is dimmed.

I know that composition of the human body has been scientifically reduced to a list of minerals and water; I get that. But where is the awe for our creation? The mind that can calculate faster than any computer, all while rocking a baby. The hands that can sooth a fever and lips which pray a soul into the next world. Can we not make space for things that cannot be weighed or measured and appreciate them? Can we look at a looming thunderhead and image that it veils the face of God? That God is just that close to us? How sad that thunder is reduced to, "*O those are barrels rolling around the sky.*"

I believe, that birdsong bursts forth from millions of small bird throats in praise of God. After the early morning choir has finished, THEN the work of protecting babies, food and space goes on.

If you are an early riser, step out for a moment, in the early dawn and listen to song of praise begin. And for those Night Owls, how about those tree frogs, crickets and lightening bugs (those bugs don't sing, but they carry their own little lamps and that is simply amazing)!

God bless you all.
Mthr. Andrea

The Theology of Gratitude: Convocation and Scholars Conference

Register now to participate online at:

https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/theology_of_gratitude_registration

The Theology of Gratitude Conference, which is now being offered at no charge, will be held online in order to ensure the health and safety of all involved and to include more participation. The one-day live webinar conference will take place on **April 24** and will be posted for later viewing at: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/conference/>. Participants who paid to register will receive a reimbursement. However, all participants will need to register at the website listed above to ensure there is enough space on Zoom to accommodate everyone wanting to attend.

The Scholars Conference will feature speaker Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., Duke University, who will identify two ways in which gratitude is defined: as an exchange and as abundant grace given by God which all are called to share. Butler Bass will serve as keynote speaker and will unpack ways that gratitude is a radical practice that is needed now. Butler Bass is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics. In addition, six scholars from a wide-ranging set of disciplines, generations, and cultural groups will also present their diverse perspectives and experiences on "The Theology of Gratitude: Human Expressions While Living in a Complex World."

Palm Sunday Schedule:

Palm Sunday	live 10 am, Zoom app
Maundy Thursday	Meditation on YouTube/Facebook
Good Friday	live 12 noon Zoom app, chapel open all day
Easter	live 10 am, Zoom app

Other resources will be made available via email and sermons and music will be uploaded to YouTube.

Ordination and Consecration moved to May 30

The Right Reverend Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma have postponed the Ordination and Consecration of The Reverend Poulson C. Reed as Bishop Coadjutor in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and Sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma until May 30. It will be held at a small venue and attendance will be minimized. It will be lived streamed and a public celebration will be held when we can do one safely. Additional details will follow as they are made available.

To read Bishop Elect's bio, visit: <https://www.epiok.org/bishop-elect>

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, April 9:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr,
Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary
1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich,
Wendy Hall

Thursday, April 23:

9-11am: Jim Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Jeff Birk, Dean Zervas
Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy, Jen Peterson,
1:00 – 2:45pm: Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich,
Becky Olsen

Habits of Grace: An invitation for you, from Presiding Bishop Curry

As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, I invite you to join me each week to take a moment to cultivate a 'habit of grace.' A new video meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. They can be found on YouTube by ping in the search bar: Habits of Grace by Bishop Curry.



St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, and all members of our armed forces and their families.

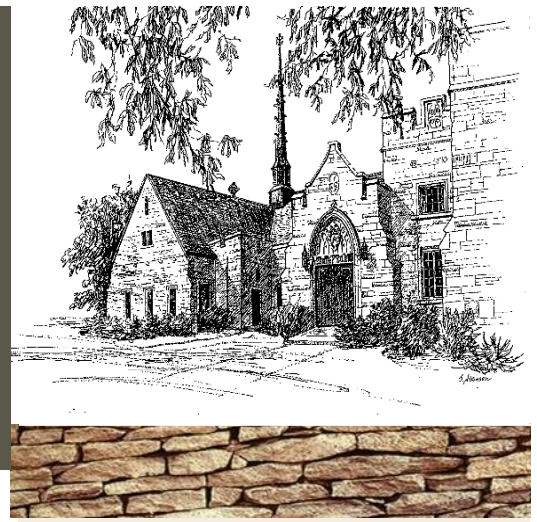
If you have a prayer request, contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinator Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or TPBGEM@aol.com or the church office at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org. (Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

Office Info: Roseanne McKee, office manager/assistant to rector, is in the office Monday – Thursdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The north doors will be locked, but if you need anything, please call the office at 918-336-1212.

Chapel Schedule: The chapel will be open Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. with stations of the cross posted.

Other thoughts...

- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.
- Sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>
- **St. Luke's is now on Instagram! Follow St. Luke's at [episcopalbartlesville](#).**



Dear Sunday School Parents,

Please check your email. I have sent out digital copies of the Godly Play lessons for Lent. I'm also going to send out prints of the plates for the story. If you don't have a printer, please let me know and I will mail you some.

It would be great if you could go through these lessons with your children the next few Sundays. If they attended Sunday School the first three weeks of Lent, a few of the lessons may be review.

I'm also going to post a video on the church website (I will email the link as well) of the lesson for you and your children to review.

Please call, text or email me if you didn't receive my email or if you have any questions.

Gods Blessings,
Keeli Droege
Christian Formation
keelidroege@gmail.com
918-697-8509

St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector
fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired
dfreebern@gmail.com 918-914-0525
In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to Rector (office@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden (dbdcomm.2@gmail.com)
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden (dmciver@susandickcpa.com)
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

Bereavement Team 1

Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Sally
Lindsey, Georgia Gates, Jeanne
Julstrom.

Collect (April 5)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

"When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

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 wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 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. 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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31:9-16

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 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.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Matthew 27:11-54

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.

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!"

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.

Matthew 27:11-54 (continued)

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.

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.

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!"

A Women's Bible Study "Zoom meetings" is planned using the book...*GRACE* by Max Lucado. It is available at Amazon and Christianbook.com. Participants will read the first chapter and then meet via Zoom for discussion and thoughts.

Nancy Woods asks that those wishing to participate let her know via email of their interest and again when they have their books in hand at nancywoods120@gmail.com.

Giving When You're Away from Church

Even though the church – like everything else – has switched into a different mode, expenses continue. The bills for insurance, utilities and other necessities continue to arrive and we continue to do the right thing by paying full salaries to our small staff. All this means that your financial help is just as important as ever. We realize some members may not be in a position to provide all the support that they had intended, at least at this time. We understand that completely. But if you're in a position to continue with the full amount of your pledge or your normal financial commitment, please do so by providing your check by mail to the church office: **St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 E 9th St, Bartlesville, OK 74003.**

On-line giving through an application called Tithe.ly will soon be available. You will be able to give from your phone or desktop device, with your donation charged against a credit/debit card or drawn from a bank account. More details on this simple way to give will be provided to you in the next few days.

On behalf of the vestry, thank you for keeping St. Luke's finances sound, and for staying safe as we face uncertain times together.

– Dan Droege, Senior Warden

FYI: Bishop Ed has inhibited the distribution of communion by the clergy to any parishioner (title IV violation). Additionally, Bishop Ed has prohibited public in-person gatherings of any kind including gathering in parking lots or other open spaces.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St.
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms

If circumstances permit, gather outside, so there is plenty of room for a procession. If there are children present, assign appropriate parts to the children or let one of the older children be "the leader".

The branches of palm or of other trees or shrubs (any branch will work—doesn't have to be a palm branch) to be carried in the procession may be distributed to all before the service, or after the prayer of blessing.

The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing

Leader Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Leader

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A person appointed reads the following

A Reading from Saint Matthew (21:1-11)

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion's daughter, "Look, your king's on his way, poised and ready, mounted On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal."

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

The leader then proclaims the following

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The following is said by all

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!! Hosanna in the highest!!

The Procession

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and one or two people may be assigned to read Psalm 118:19-29.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Reader 1: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Reader 2: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Reader 1: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Reader 2: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Reader 1: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Reader 2: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Reader 1: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader 2: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

Reader 1: O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Reader 1: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

Reader 2: The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

Reader 1: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

Reader 2: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following Collect (prayer) is said

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

After the procession is over, if it is appropriate, move to a quiet place and read the Passion Narrative that is available in this week's Steeple or from your personal Bible. The text is Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54 (shorter reading).

After the reading, if you have children in your family or group, a short conversation might be appropriate. Here is a conversation idea:

*The chief question children ask about the passion narrative is "Why did people hate Jesus that much?" They simply cannot fit this story with all the others about Jesus being a friend, a healer, and a helper. In one kindergarten class a boy posed this question and was answered by another boy thoughtfully, "Jesus said they had to share and they didn't want to." Right on target! Jesus called people to share, to forgive each other, to take care of each other, even to love people who do not love us back. None of this is easy on either the personal or national level. Because people did not want to do those hard things, they wanted Jesus to stop saying them or go away. Since he wouldn't stop saying them, they got rid of him – they thought. It is a stretch but worthwhile to explore the possibility that they hated Jesus because they knew he was right, but did not want to do what he asked. from Carolyn Brown, *Worshipping with Children*, <https://bit.ly/2yu7zdh>*