

Call to Worship

Leader: Six weeks of Lent are almost finished. Our smudges of Ash Wednesday — signs of discipleship on our heads and hands — are invisible. Today we mix the excitement of the parade of palms with the dread of passion.

People: We are glad to be here to consider the stories of Jesus and how they impact our living.

Leader: Our days are longer and we have “anticipatory anxiety” as we watch spring burst out. For the past weeks, we have read the biblical accounts of Jesus teaching along the east end of the Mediterranean. Now we move to Passover week and the murder of Jesus. As we have explored his life and teachings, we have accentuated the goodness that lies within us. We have become aware of the Holy Presence modifying our goals and values

People: In the spring light, we will let go of old guilt and as Easter comes, we will relish new energies in nature and in our own psyches.

Prayer of Confession:

When temptations come — for they surely will — give us clarity about your hopes for our lives.

When idols sneak into our thoughts and activities, remind us not to play games with your grace and power.

Nurture our souls with words and silences, with relationships and fresh opportunities.

We walk the human path Jesus walked; grant us insight to be faithful. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ
his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead,
and buried;

the third day he rose
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

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**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.**