

**Opening Hymn: The royal banners forward go**

The royal banners forward go,  
the cross shines forth in mystic glow,  
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,  
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

Fulfilled is all that David told  
in true prophetic song of old,  
the universal Lord is he,  
who reigns and triumphs from the tree.

O tree of beauty, tree of light,  
O tree with royal purple dight,  
elect on whose triumphal breast  
those holy limbs should find their rest!

On whose dear arms so widely flung,  
the weight of this world's ransom hung,  
the price of humankind to pay  
and spoil the spoiler of his prey.

O cross, our one reliance, hail!  
So may the power with us prevail  
to give new virtue to the saint,  
and pardon to the penitent.

To thee, eternal Three in One,  
let homage meet by all be done:  
whom by the cross thou dost restore,  
preserve and govern evermore. Amen.

*Gonfalon Royal 128ii NEH*

**The Collect: Passion Sunday**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Romans 8: 6–11*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Bless the Lord, my soul**

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

*Taize Community*

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St John 11: 1-45*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**The Intercessions**

**Offertory Hymn: My song is love unknown**

My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.

O, who am I,  
that for my sake  
my Lord should take  
frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne,  
salvation to bestow:  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.

But O, my friend,  
my friend indeed,  
who at my need  
his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!'  
is all their breath,  
and for his death  
they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save,  
the Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he  
to suffering goes,  
that he his foes  
from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine!  
this is my friend,  
in whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
could gladly spend.

*Love Unknown 86 NEH*

**Anthem: Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord**

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

*John Rutter (b.1945)  
Psalm 130*

**Communion Hymn: Servant King**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*Refrain: This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears, my heavy load he chose to bear; his heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.	<i>Refrain:</i>	Come, see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice, hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered.	<i>Refrain:</i>
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So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving. *Refrain:*

*Servant King 489 AM*

**Dismissal: Lift high the cross**

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Follow the path on which our Captain trod, our King victorious, Christ the Son of God: Each new-born soldier of the Crucified Bears on his brow the seal of him who died: Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:	From farthest regions let them homage bring, and on his cross adore their Saviour King: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious Tree, as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee: Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease beneath the shadow of its healing peace:
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*Crucifer 72 AMNS*