



## Palm/Passion Sunday



### *Trinity United Church of Christ*

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# Trinity United Church of Christ

March 24, 2024

Palm/Passion Sunday

8:00AM and 10:30AM Worship

*Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!*

*If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, we are glad to be on this journey of faith with you. Trinity believes that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!** To enhance your worship experience, we have large print bulletins and hearing support devices available.*

*Please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.*

*Enter to worship today but stick around to see what God is doing in this place!*

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*Congregational responses in **bold print**.*

*\* Denotes standing as you are able.*

A TIME OF SHARING/GREETING

PRELUDE – “The Holy City” - *Adams*

\*THE PALM PARADE

Mark 11:1-11

They were looking for answers. So, they went to Jerusalem. They gathered in the streets to make a way for peace. On the other side of the city, there was another procession.

Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, rode into Jerusalem with an army of horses, armored soldiers and waving banners.

On the other side of the city, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus had sent two of his disciples to go into the village and find tied there a colt that had never been ridden; untie it and bring it. He instructed them, “If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They replied with the answer Jesus had given.

“The Lord needs it,” they said.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and Jesus sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who needed answers, those who had come looking for peace, began shouting, “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!”

**\*HYMN #216 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”**  
*(Waving our Palms)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come seeking words.

**We come to offer our praises and shouts of Hosanna!**

Come to find your voice.

**We come to hear the response.**

Come to open your ears.

**We come to listen.**

Come to be healed by the silence.

**We come to stand together.**

Come to approach what words cannot describe.

**We come to find God.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Come O Holy One.

Come through the streets. Come into the house.

Come to find a space beside us at the table.

**Come to challenge our answers about  
why tragedy comes; why poverty increases;  
why we are afraid.**

Come O Holy One.

Speak to us in the silence with wisdom greater than ours;  
with love deeper than ours; with change wider than ours.

**MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER**

**Come O Holy One. Fill in these stories with your wisdom,  
your change so that we might rely on your answers.**

**Here and now. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**#553 “There is a Balm in Gilead” (vs 1 and 2)**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, we are too distressed to notice that you join us in the parade.  
We are too deeply grieved to be aware that you sit beside us at the table.

We are too busy sighing. We are too busy talking.

We have insisted upon our own answers.

We proclaimed our own knowledge about why bad things happen,  
why the rich get richer, why the world feels so broken.

We have assured ourselves that this is the way that things must be.

But, our lives are in your hands.

**O Holy One, speak to us. Fill our silence.**

**Comfort us with your love so that we may find your understanding.**

**Trust us to find your answers when we finally tire from our own.**

**Save us, O Holy One, with your steadfast love. Amen.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

#188 **"Give Me a Clean Heart"**

*Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.*

*God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.*

*For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.*

*Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God opens your ears. God speaks when you are silent.

God approaches you in the parade and at the table  
in your denial and your praise to be your help, today and always. Amen.

## ANTHEM

"The Palms"

*by Barker/J. Faure*

**The Senior Choir**

## A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

**\*HYMN #215 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"**

## THE PASSION BEGINS

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one

of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

SERMON  
*"Palms and Passion"*

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 "Apostle's Creed"**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living 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**

**\*CALL TO OFFERING**

When you have no words, when you cannot find your voice,  
God approaches. Let us reach out to our God.  
Let us give our gifts.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #778**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O Holy One, bless these gifts so that the world may know  
your love even when we are silent. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #219 “Journey to Gethsemane”**

**\*FINAL BLESSING**

Go into the world to find your voice.  
**Listening to what God will do.**  
Go into the world to find each other.  
**Reaching out when we need support.**  
Go into the world be amazed.  
**Knowing that God is always with us.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**Portions of Today's liturgy have been adapted from:**

**No Answer: Prayers for Palm-Passion Sunday** was written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a budding spiritual director and wandering interim minister. Copyright 2021 Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

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**Prelude** – *The Holy City*. Music by Adams. Published by Carl Fischer Music.

**Response** - *Give Me a Clean Heart*. Words and music: Margaret Douroux © 1970 Margaret Pleasant Douroux, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**Anthem** – *The Palms*. By Barker/J. Faure. Published by G. Schirmer, Inc.

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**Worship Participants**

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young		Pastor
Dave Churchill	8:00am	Liturgists
Julie Strickland	10:30am	
John McKay		Senior Choir Director
Sara Shank		Organist
Mark Luckenbaugh		Early Worship Percussion
Ann Harner	8:00am	Ushers
Lenore O'Rourke, Becky Woodward	10:30am	
Janet & Steve Sheely	10:30am	Greeters
Janet Sheely	10:30am	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey,		Tech Team
Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Mike Chase, Terry Krietz		

# 216

## All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Theodulph of Orléans, 9th century  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1854; alt.

1. All glo-ry, laud, and hon-or to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of chil-dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!  
The peo-ple of the He-breus with palms a-dorned your way;  
our praise and prayer and an-thems we of-fer you this day.
2. O Prom-ised One of Is-rael, of Da-vid's roy-al line,  
the one called "God's be-lov-ed," of flesh and yet di-vine,  
To you, be- fore your pas-sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
to you, now high ex-alt-ed, our mel-o-dy we raise.
3. As you re-ceived their prais-es, re-ceive our prayers to-day,  
whose jus-tice and whose mer-cy and sov-ereign-ty hold sway.  
All glo-ry, laud, and hon-or to you, O Christ, we sing,  
to whom the lips of chil-dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

Matt. 21:8–9



## There Is a Balm in Gilead

553

African-American spiritual; alt.

*Refrain:*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,  
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.

*Refrain:*

2. Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend,  
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.

*Refrain:*

3. If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

*Refrain:*

Jer. 8:18–22; 46:11; Acts 10:34–43

## Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

215

Henry H. Milman, 1827; adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1993

1. Ride on! Ride on in maj-es-ty!  
O Christ, with brave hu-mil-i-ty,  
On low-ly colt, your road pur-sue,  
as palms and cloaks are spread for you.
2. Ride on! Ride on in maj-es-ty!  
As crowds of peo-ple come to see  
And shout ho-san-nas, lift-ing high  
their praise for one a-bout to die.
3. Ride on! Ride on in maj-es-ty!  
Ride on in hum-ble dig-ni-ty;  
Be-hold the ones you came to save  
from sense-less life and end-less grave.
4. Ride on! Ride on in maj-es-ty!  
For you have set your peo-ple free  
And we, re-mem-bering all your pain,  
now meet a-gain to hail your reign.

Luke 19:36–38; Zech. 9:9

James Montgomery, 1820; alt.

1. Jour-ney to Geth-se-ma-ne,  
go and feel the tempt-er's power;  
Your Re-deem-er's con-flict see,  
watch the an-guish of this hour;  
Do not hide or turn a-way:  
learn from Je-sus how to pray.
2. Fol-low then to Pi-late's hall,  
view the Lord of life ar-raigned;  
Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,  
faith-ful-ly this pain sus-tained;  
Great-er still than shame or loss,  
Je-sus now must face the cross.
3. Cal-vary's mourn-ful moun-tain climb,  
see the Sav-ior lift-ed high,  
Mark the mir-a-cle of time,  
God's own Child is sac-ri-ficed;  
"It is fin-ished!" Je-sus cries:  
learn from Je-sus how to die.
4. Ear-ly has-ten to the tomb,  
hear the cry of great sur-prise;  
Then the si-lence in the room,  
Je-sus there no long-er lies:  
Christ is ris-en! Re-al-ize  
that with Christ we, too, may rise.

John 18:1–20:18

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Gettysburg, PA

March 24, 2024



**Sermon**

*Reading of the Passion Narrative*

Mark 14:1-15:47

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young  
Pastor

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

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.”

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.”

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.

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.

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.”

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.”

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.

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.”

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. 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.

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.’”*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!”

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.

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.