

## *First Reader:* **A READING FROM EXODUS**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Leader:* **Responding by half verse:**

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,

**because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.**

10 How shall I repay the Lord

**for all the good things he has done for me?**

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation

**and call upon the Name of the Lord.**

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

**in the presence of all his people.**

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord

**is the death of his servants.**

14 O Lord, I am your servant;

**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

**and call upon the Name of the Lord.**

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

**in the presence of all his people,**

17 In the courts of the Lord's house,

**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

## *Prayers of the People:*

*Deacon or presider:*

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you feed us and serve us with your very Life. Help us feed and serve the world in your name, by our prayers and by our witness, by the choices we make and by the actions we take. By your grace, we begin here and now, praying for all whom you love, asking you to hear our prayer.

*Intercessor:*

For the Church, that we may remember the one whom we serve, and the cost of his service to us. Make us bring cleansing waters and healing balm to the prisoner, the captive, the poor, and all in need.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those given charge of the welfare of nations. May they remember that the leader is one who serves. We pray for our president and cabinet, for congress, for the leaders of our city, and for all others who govern.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who must make hard moral choices, who hold the lives of others in their hands. For doctors, nurses, and rescue workers; for ethicists and lawmakers.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those whose feet are dirty because they have no shoes, whose hearts are broken because they have no hope. For those whose only clothes are on their backs. For those without homes, and for those who are alone.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those for whom life is hard. For those whose minds are not clear. For those in harm's way, especially civilians and soldiers in places of war and strife around the world.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are sick and all those in any other need. We pray for all those we now name. *The congregation may add their own petitions, followed by silence.*

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who mourn and all whose lives have been taken by the hands of others. Grant us both the courage to seek justice, and the strength to forgive. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, for all those whose memory will live in the members of this community. For all others who have died, whom we now name. *The congregation may add their own petitions, followed by silence.*

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the power of Christ who died our death, may they know the power of everlasting life.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**