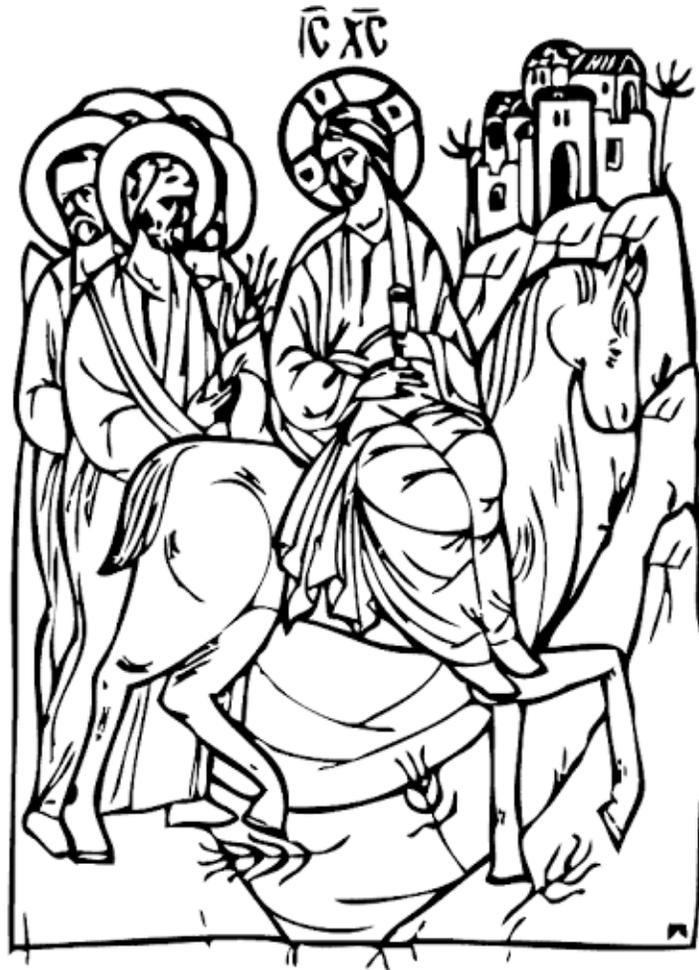


St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Bakersfield



Liturgy of the Word
The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021

Liturgy of the Palms

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

People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Officiant Let us pray. (*silence*)

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.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 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 told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he 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 went ahead and those who followed were 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!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Mark 11:1-11

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Officiant 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. Grant that we who bear 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.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Blessed is he who comes in name of the Lord.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Liturgy of the Word

Officiant Let us pray. (*silence*)

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.

All **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from Isaiah

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?

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Response

Lector Incline you ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.

People **Incline you ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.**

Lector Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow,

and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief,

and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

People **Incline you ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.**

Lector 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.
I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.

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.

People **Incline you ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.**

Lector But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

Psalm 31:9-16

People **Incline you ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Passion Gospel

Narrator

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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. Pilate asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Nar. He answered him,

Jesus You say so.

Nar. Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.

Nar. 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. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

Pilate Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

Nar. For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Nar. They shouted back,

Crowd Crucify him!

Nar. Pilate asked them,

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Nar. But they shouted all the more,

Crowd Crucify him!

Nar. 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. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

Nar. They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 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.

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. 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. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Bystanders Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!

Nar. In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

C. Priests He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.

Nar. Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Nar. which means,

Jesus My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Nar. When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

Nar. And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystanders Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.

Nar. Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

A period of silence is observed.

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son!

Nar. 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. 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, 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. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 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. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Mark 15:1-47

A period of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Deacon Let us stand with Christ in his suffering, and offer to the Father our prayers for the needs of the Church and the world.

For the Church, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, and David our Bishop; for Francis the Bishop of Rome and for Bartholomew the Ecumenical Patriarch, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For all God's holy people; in the Anglican Communion for the Hong Kong Anglican Church, and in our diocese for our Creation Care Commission, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For this nation caught in the grips of violence, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those in the darkness and agony of loneliness and isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For Kammie, Scott, Gwen, Michelle, Ethan, Penny, Jan, Tanya, the Toia/Gonzalez family, Nancy, Roy, Maria, Wanda, Bob, for all living with the effects of COVID-19, and all who have commended themselves to our prayers, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For those tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon For Luisa Rodriguez, Kevin Fox, Ruth Fox, Ann Mitchell who year's mind falls at this time. For Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Tralona Bartkowiak, Suzanne Fountain, Teri Leiker, Kevin Mahoney, Lynn Murray, Rikki Olds, Neven Stanisic, Denny Stong, Jody Waters, and all who have died violently or at the hands of others., that they may know the joy of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Joining our prayers with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Paul the Apostle, Joachim, Anne and all God's holy ones, let us say

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be they 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant Once we were far, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Announcements

Conclusion

Officiant

We have been crucified with Christ
and live by faith in him who loved us and gave himself for us.

All **Amen.**

Officiant

We believe that by his dying Christ destroyed death for ever.

All **Amen.**

Officiant

By the glory of the cross of Christ we live no longer to ourselves but for him and the world's renewal.

All **Amen.**

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

All **Amen.**