

**HOLY EUCHARIST FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
WITH THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Presider Dear friends in Christ,
 during Lent we have been preparing
 for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.
 On this day our Lord Jesus Christ
 entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.
 The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise,
 but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.
 Today we greet him as our King,
 although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.
 We follow him this week from the glory of the palms
 to the glory of the resurrection
 by way of the dark road of suffering and death.
 United with him in his suffering on the cross,
 may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Holy and immortal God,
as we enter into this holy week
turn our hearts to Jerusalem,
so that, united with Christ and all the faithful,
we may enter the city not made with hands,
your promised realm of justice and peace,
eternal from age to age.

People **Amen.**

The Gospel Reading (Matthew 21:1-11)

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs

them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

People The gospel of Christ.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Presider 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.
 The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King,
 with palm branches in their hands, crying,
 Hosanna in the highest.
 May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ
 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.

The Procession

Presider Let us go forth in peace.
People In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn during the Procession

All Glory, Laud, and Honour (CP 181, vv. 1-4)

Collect at the Crossing

Presider Let us pray.

Compassionate God,
your love finds full expression
in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son,
who willingly met betrayal and death
to set us free from sin.
Give us courage to live obediently in these days
until we greet the glory of our risen Saviour.

People **Amen.**

Hymn during the Procession

All Glory, Laud, and Honour (CP 181, v. 5)

Musical Reflection

The Palms (Faure)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Collect for the Sunday of the Passion

Presider Let us pray.

Lord,
your love is broken open
among cheering crowds and a traitor's coins,
deserting friends and hands washed clean,
the mockery of power and the baying mob:
as we follow the way of your Passion,
give us the faith
to bring our weak and divided hearts
to the foot of the cross
and the door of the guarded tomb
that they might be opened,
astonished, and healed;
through Jesus Christ, who carries the weight of the world.

People **Amen.**

Children's Message

The First Reading (Isaiah 50.4-9a)

Reader A reading from the book of 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 backwards.
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?

People Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
 Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (23)

Introduction *Best sung unaccompanied*

In - to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spi - rit.

1 2 3 4

- (1) Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
 (2) my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
 (1) For my life is wated with grief,
 (2) and my years with sighing;
 (3) my strength fails me because of affliction,
 (4) and my bones are consumed. **R.**

- (1) I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,
 (2) a dismay to those of my acquaintance;
 (2) when they see me in the street they avoid me.
 (3) I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;
 (4) I am as useless as a broken pot. **R.**

- (1) For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
 (2) fear is all around;
 (1) they put their heads together against me;
 (2) they plot to take my life.
 (3) But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
 (4) I have said, "You are my God. **R.**

- (1) My times are in your hand;
 (2) rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
 (3) Make your face to shine upon your servant,
 (4) and in your loving-kindness save me." **R.**

The Second Reading (Philippians 2.5-11)

Reader A reading from the letter 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.

People Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
 Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (CP 716)

Cantor Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
All **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**
Cantor Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on Christ
 the name which is above every name.
All **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Passion (Matthew 26.14-27.66)

Evangelist The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

Judas What will you give me if I betray him to you?

Evangelist They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus.

Disciples Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Jesus Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’

Evangelist So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said,

Jesus Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

Evangelist And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another,

Disciples Surely not I, Lord?

Jesus The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 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.

Evangelist Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas Surely not I, Rabbi?

Jesus You have said so.

Evangelist While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus Take, eat; this is my body.

Evangelist Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Evangelist When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Evangelist Peter said to him,

Peter Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.

Jesus Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Peter Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Evangelist And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

Jesus Sit here while I go over there and pray.

Evangelist He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them,

Jesus I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.

Evangelist And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

Jesus My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Evangelist Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Evangelist Again he went away for the second time and prayed,

Jesus My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Evangelist Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

Jesus Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

Evangelist While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign:

Judas The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Evangelist At once he came up to Jesus and said,

Judas Greetings, Rabbi!

Evangelist and kissed him.

Jesus Friend, do what you are here to do.

Evangelist Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Jesus Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Evangelist At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

Jesus Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.

Evangelist Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward.

Witnesses This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'

Evangelist The high priest stood up and said,

Caiaphas Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

Evangelist But Jesus was silent.

Caiaphas I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

Evangelist Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

Caiaphas He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?

Priests He deserves death.

Evangelist Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him.

Priests Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?

Evangelist Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

Serv.-girl 1 You also were with Jesus the Galilean.

Evangelist But he denied it before all of them,

Peter I do not know what you are talking about.

Evangelist When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

Serv.-girl 2 This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Evangelist Again he denied it with an oath,

Peter I do not know the man.

Evangelist After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

Bystanders Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.

Evangelist Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter I do not know the man!

Evangelist At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders.

Judas I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

Priests What is that to us? See to it yourself.

Evangelist Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

Priests It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

Evangelist After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.'

Evangelist Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Evangelist But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd,

anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd Barabbas.

Pilate Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowd Let him be crucified!

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Crowd Let him be crucified!

Evangelist So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd.

Pilate I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Crowd His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

When the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him.

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

- Evangelist* They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.
- As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."
- Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads.
- Passers-by* You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.
- Evangelist* In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him.
- Priests* He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'
- Evangelist* The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.
- From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,
- Jesus* Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?
- Evangelist* That is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
- Bystanders* This man is calling for Elijah.
- Evangelist* At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,
- Bystanders* Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Evangelist Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son!

Evangelist Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

Priests Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead', and the last deception would be worse than the first.

Pilate You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.

Evangelist So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

Sermon

The Rev. Donald McKenzie

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

Presider We, who were enemies
of one another and of life,
have been reconciled
by the free gift of God;
for while we were still at war
God has made peace
by the blood of the Cross.

People The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

My Song is Love Unknown (CP 184)

Blessing the Saintsbread

Presider Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Jesus Christ,
bread of angels, bread of eternal life;
bless this bread
as you blessed the five loaves in the wilderness,
that all who taste it
may know health and wholeness
of body and soul;
through you, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Let us pray.

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your abundance,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (3)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Now is the time to give you thanks
when rage and spite deface your image.

You are the undying one
whose gift of life never ceases;
you journeyed with your people
to break the bonds of slavery;
you gave the law of justice
to free them from lifeless idols;
you called the prophets and judges
to speak for the dispossessed.

When empires ruled
you gave your Beloved
to those who silenced
what they could not control
and wormed their way
into our colluding hearts.

In his self-offering of love
the wound of torment
became a healing spring,
the place of execution
a gateway into life.

Therefore we stand with all the victims,
the faithless and the treacherous,
and the ones who only followed orders,
knowing we depend on grace
to raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(CP 726)

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, " Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

People Therefore, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Presider and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
All **Our Father in heaven,**
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread (Lent and Holy Week)

Presider We break this bread,
People **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat
which bears its fruit in dying.
If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
People Thanks be to God.

Music during Communion

The Royal Banners Forward Go (CP 186)

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord.
All And your faithful servants bless you.
 Gracious God
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 May we, who share his body,
 live his risen life;
 we, who drink his cup,
 bring life to others;
 we, whom the Spirit lights,
 give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so that we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth live to praise your name;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Solemn Prayer

Presider Grant, Almighty God, that your people may accept your invitation to join you in
 new life springing from the Cross, where hunger is no more and death has no
 dominion; may the broken bread of life fracture stony hearts for the sake of another
 world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.
People Amen.

Sending Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended (CP 196)

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.