

Sunday of the Passion: PALM SUNDAY

March 24, 2024

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

{Mark 11:1-11}

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah {50:4-9a}

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?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 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.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 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.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians [2:5-11]

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL IS FOUND
IN THE
PASSION INSERT



THE PASSION OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO
ST. MARK



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha, all stand. When desired, the reading may begin at the point marked.



The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner:

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO ST. MARK:**

EVANGELIST: They went to a place called Gethsemane:
and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: Sit here while I pray.

EVANGELIST: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be
distressed and agitated. And said to them,

JESUS: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

EVANGELIST: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground
and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.
He said,

JESUS: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me:
yet, not what I want, but what you want.

EVANGELIST: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?
Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;
the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

EVANGELIST: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.
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.
He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come;
the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us
be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.

EVANGELIST: 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. Now the betrayer
had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: The one that I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.

EVANGELIST: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: Rabbi!

EVANGELIST: and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.

EVANGELIST: 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, 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. 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. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

CONGREGATION: 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."

EVANGELIST: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?

EVANGELIST: But he was silent and did not answer.
Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

JESUS: 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."

EVANGELIST: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy!
What is your decision?

EVANGELIST: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

CONGREGATION: Prophecy!

EVANGELIST: 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. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT-GIRL: You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

EVANGELIST: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: I do not know or understand what you are talking about.

EVANGELIST: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT-GIRL: This man is one of them.

EVANGELIST: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

CONGREGATION: Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

EVANGELIST: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: I do not know this man you are talking about.

EVANGELIST: 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.



EVANGELIST: 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?

JESUS: You say so.

EVANGELIST: 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.

EVANGELIST: 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?

EVANGELIST: 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?

CONGREGATION: Crucify him!

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

EVANGELIST: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: Crucify him!

EVANGELIST: 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,

CONGREGATION: Hail, King of the Jews!

EVANGELIST: 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.

(Here, all stand, if they are not doing so already.)

EVANGELIST: 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,

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

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

CONGREGATION: 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.

EVANGELIST: 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?

EVANGELIST: Which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

CONGREGATION: Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

EVANGELIST: 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." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Silence is kept for a few moments, during which some may wish to kneel.)

EVANGELIST: 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!