

Truly this man was God's son!

Mark 15:39b

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Liturgies of the Palms, the Word, and the Table
March 28, 2021, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the appointed order for Palm Sunday, beginning on page 270 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

Weather permitting we will gather around the well for worship, which will begin with the sound of the bell.

Liturgy of the Palms

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Let us pray.

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.**

Gospel Lesson – 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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in 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. **Amen.**

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

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

(We sing)

**All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. (repeat)**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sing very quietly as we find our seat and remain standing

Liturgy of the Word

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – 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 awakens--
awakens 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?

Psalm 31:9-16

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.**
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.
**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."**

The Epistle Lesson – 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson – Mark 15:1-39 (*we remain seated for the beginning of the reading*)

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, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 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, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 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, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" 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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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).

(We stand.)

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, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" 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. 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. 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?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." 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. 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, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

We keep silence

Sermon

The Rev. Lee Lowery

(We keep silence)

The Prayers of the People (Form I, page 383, BCP) *(we stand or kneel.)*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Tallassee, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Rice Jacobs, Jayne Oniffrey, Tom and Laura Taylor, Andrus Love, Bubba Pasley, and the others we now name. *(Silence for us to add our own petitions).* Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without
suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O
Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend
ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our
God.

To thee, O Lord our God. (Silence)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to
you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins,
but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and
unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the
Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Offertory

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present
yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.

Hymn: *Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed? (we sit)*

Alas! and did my savior bleed, and did my sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
(Chorus:) At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the
light, and the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there
by faith I received my sight and now I am happy all the day.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while Calvary's cross
appears. Dissolve my heart in thankfulness and melt mine
eyes to tears. (Chorus)

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p 361) (we stand)

The Lord be with you.

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and
everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator
of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For
our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might
draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and
death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who
put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and
Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for
ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

We stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us
for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become
subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus
Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human
nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered
himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the
whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in
this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death,
resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the
Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of
new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may
faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity,
constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all
your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and
with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all
honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for
ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**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 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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. We keep a period of silence.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Being careful to maintain social distance and keeping our faces covered, we approach the table. Each of us takes a plate and returns to his or her seat. We consume the wafer when we are back in our seats.

After Communion, we stand or kneel.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Following the service, please place your palm branch and your plate in the separate receptacles provided in the narthex.

Serving at Epiphany today:

Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Suzy Wilson

And Maundy Thursday:

Altar Guild: Cathy Jones
Lay Reader: Pam Van Etten