

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Year B

Holy Week

The Liturgy of the Palms

When circumstances permit, the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession.

The branches of palm are distributed to the people before the service.

The following anthem is said, the people standing.

Priest: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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.*

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Mark 11:1-11

Priest or Celebrant reads the following:

And when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, ² and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. ³ If any one says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. ⁵ And those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. ⁸ And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the

fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem, and went into the temple; and when he had looked round at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Blessing of the Palms

Priest or Celebrant reads the following:

Let us pray:

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

Bless these branches † to be for us signs of our Lord's victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord and 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 forever. *Amen*

The following anthem is said:

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

People: *Hosanna in the highest.*

The Procession

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

People: *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

During the Procession, all hold branches in their hands. The congregation and choir sing "All glory, laud and honor."

At the conclusion of the Procession the following prayer is said by the Celebrant at the Altar.

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.*

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living 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 Isaiah 52:13-53:12

52:13 Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴ As many were astonished at him -- his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men -- ¹⁵ so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

53:1 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; ¹¹ he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22:1-11

Deus, Deus meus

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

A Reading from Philippians 2:5-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was

in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark 14:32-15:47

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

The congregation remains seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions our Lord's arrival at Golgotha (Mark 15:22) all stand.

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| Narrator | And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, |
| Jesus | "Sit here, while I pray." |
| Narrator | ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, |
| Jesus | "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch." |
| Narrator | ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, |
| Jesus | "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." |

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| Narrator | ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, |
| Jesus | "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." |
| Narrator | ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time, and said to them, |
| Jesus | "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand." |
| Narrator | ⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, |
| First Reader | "The one I shall kiss is the man; seize him and lead him away under guard." |
| Narrator | ⁴⁵ And when he came, he went up to him at once, and said, |
| First Reader | "Master!" |
| Narrator | And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, |

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| Jesus | "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching and you did not seize me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." |
| Narrator | ⁵⁰ And they all forsook him, and fled. ⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. ⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council sought testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, and their witness did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, |
| Second Reader | ⁵⁸ "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.'" |
| Narrator | ⁵⁹ Yet not even so did their testimony agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, |
| First Reader | "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" |
| Narrator | ⁶¹ But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, |
| First Reader | "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" |

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| Jesus | ⁶² "I Am; and you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." |
| Narrator | ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments, and said, |
| First Reader | "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" |
| Narrator | And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to strike him, saying to him, |
| Congregation | "Prophecy!" |
| Narrator | And the guards received him with blows. ⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the maids of the high priest came; ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him, and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, |
| Second Reader | "I neither know nor understand what you mean." |
| Narrator | And he went out into the gateway. ⁶⁹ And the maid saw him, and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while again the bystanders said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, |
| Second Reader | "I do not know this man of whom you speak." |
| Narrator | ⁷² And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you |

will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept. ^{15:1} And as soon as it was morning the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him,

First Reader

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus

"You have said so."

Narrator

³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him,

First Reader

"Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you."

Narrator

⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate wondered. ⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he was wont to do for them. ⁹ And he answered them,

First Reader

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

Narrator

¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them,

First Reader

"Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?"

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| Congregation | ¹³ "Crucify him." |
| First Reader | "Why, what evil has he done?" |
| Narrator | But they shouted all the more, |
| Congregation | "Crucify him." |
| Narrator | ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the Praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, |
| Second Reader | "Hail, King of the Jews!" |
| Narrator | ¹⁹ And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon him, and they knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. |

PLEASE STAND

²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

²⁵ And it was the third hour, when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁸ ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads, and saying,

Second Reader "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

Narrator ³¹ So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes, saying,

Second Reader "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."

Narrator Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. ³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

Narrator which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Second Reader "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Narrator ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry... [pause] and breathed his last.

SILENCE

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said,

Second Reader "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Narrator ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered to him; and also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem. ⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

In Place of a Sermon three minutes of Silence and prayer will be maintained.

All stand

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

The Confession of sin and Absolution

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

The Prayer of Consecration

Sanctus and Benedictus sung

The Holy Communion of the People of God

Music

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Blessing of Christ for the Church

Hymn in Procession

The Dismissal

