

# The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

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Year C

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. Luke 19:29-40

*Celebrant reads the following:*

When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples,<sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here."<sup>31</sup> If any one asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this, "The Lord has need of it."<sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them.<sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"<sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it."<sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it.<sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road.<sup>37</sup> As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to

rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

## **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" or some other suitable hymn.*

*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 45:21-25**

Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. <sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.' <sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed, all who were incensed against him. <sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory."

## **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, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> 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. Luke 22:39-23:49

*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 all stand.***

Narrator                      Jesus came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them,

Jesus                              Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

Narrator                      And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

Jesus                    Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Narrator                And there appeared to him an angel from Heaven strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

Jesus                    Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

Narrator                While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

Jesus                    Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?

Narrator                And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said,

Reader 1                Lord, shall we strike with the sword?

Narrator                And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

Jesus                    No more of this!

Narrator                And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him,

Jesus                    Have you come out as against a robber, with

swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Narrator Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying

Reader 1 Woman, I do not know him!

Narrator And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said,

Reader 1 Man, I am not

Narrator And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said,

Reader 1 Man, I do not know what you are saying.

Narrator And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly. <sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; <sup>64</sup> they also blindfolded him and asked him,

Reader 2 Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?

Narrator                    And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said,

Reader 2                    If you are the Christ, tell us.

Jesus                        If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

Reader 2                    Are you the Son of God, then?

Jesus                        You say that I am.

Reader 2                    What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.

Narrator                    Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying,

Reader 2                    We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king.

Narrator                    And Pilate asked him,

Reader 1                    "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus                        You say so.

Narrator                    Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes,

Reader 1                    I find no crime in this man.

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| Narrator            | But they were urgent, saying,  |
| Reader 2            | He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.  |
| Narrator            | When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, |
| Reader 1            | You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you. I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him.   |
| Narrator            | But they all cried out together,   |
| <b>Congregation</b> | <b>Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.</b>   |

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| Narrator            | Barabbas was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they shouted out,   |
| <b>Congregation</b> | <b>Crucify, crucify him!</b>   |
| Reader 1            | Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.   |
| Narrator            | But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will. And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, |
| Jesus               | Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, `Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, `Fall on us'; and to the hills, `Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?   |
| Narrator            | Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.  |

## PLEASE STAND

- Narrator            And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said,
- Jesus                Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
- Narrator            And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying
- Reader 2            "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"
- Narrator            The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying,
- Reader 2            "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
- Narrator            There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying,
- Reader 2            "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"
- Narrator            But the other rebuked him, saying,
- Reader 1            "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.
- Narrator            Then he said,

Reader 1            Jesus, remember me when you come into  
                              your kingdom.

Jesus                 Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in  
                              Paradise.

Narrator            It was now about the sixth hour, and there was  
                              darkness over the whole land until the ninth  
                              hour, while the sun's light failed; and the  
                              curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then  
                              Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

Jesus                 Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!

Narrator            And having said this he breathed his last.

**[Pause for a moment of silence]**

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

***In place of a sermon three minutes of silent prayer will be maintained.***