



Palm Sunday

St. John's Episcopal Church

April 13, 2025

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
with Holy Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Palms

Officiant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Luke 19:28-40

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Blessing of the Palms

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **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.**

Officiant Let us go forth in peace.

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

Entrance Hymn

#154 ~ *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Refrain:

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

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One.
(*Refrain*)

The company of angels are praising thee on high;
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
(*Refrain*)

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present.
(*Refrain*)

To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
(*Refrain*)

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
(*Refrain*)

Liturgy of the Word

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let Israel now proclaim, ***
"His mercy endures for ever."
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 **"This is the gate of the LORD; ***
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- 22 **The same stone which the builders rejected ***
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 **On this day the LORD has acted; ***
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! *
LORD, send us now success.
- 26 **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; ***
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 **"You are my God, and I will thank you; ***
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
- 29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: **Praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

Christ became obedient to the point of death.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him-The name which is above every name.

Praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Luke 23:1-49

The assembly of the elders of the people rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate

said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 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?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

Prayers of the People

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

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For the peace of the world and particularly for Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Yemen, and Haiti - for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For our presiding Bishop Sean, our diocesan Bishop Julia, our regional Canon Greg, our priest John, and for our wardens and vestry.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For Donald our President, for the leaders of nations and for all in authority; for Saugus, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list: Julia Aston, Elin Babin, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Lenore Corbin, Ken DiBiccari, Kelly Dodge, Jim and Tim Eldridge, Joanne and Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn and Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Lawrence LeBlanc, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroia, Kathy and Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Stephanie Roache, Debbie Rossetti, Jane Selvitella, Gina Sorrentino, Sandy and David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom and Joanie Tello, Steve and Kathy, Tony Venezia, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, and Claire, (*Are there others?*), let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader For all who have departed in the hope of the resurrection, especially Ralph Selvitella, Helen & Warren LeGallo, Mary Scarpone, The Rev. P. & N. Anthes, Preston Lobbregt, Robert & Ruth Collins, Carl & Marjorie Nelson, and Bertha & Norman Calderwood, Clarence, Margaret, and Judy Rodgers, and Donna Maklary, let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader In the communion of John, Luke, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our Lord.

People **To thee, O Lord our God.**

Leader O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Invitation to Confession:

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the Cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation

Officiant Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor.

Doxology 1982 Hymnal #380 vs. 3 only

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord is here.

People **His spirit is with us.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Officiant Almighty God, Creator of us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Sanctus

1982 Hymnal S 129

**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.

Officiant Creator of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

Officiant This is his story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Officiant This is his story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant Jesus blessed you, Abba, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Officiant This is our story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant Therefore, Father and Mother, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Officiant This is our story.

People **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Officiant Send your Spirit on us now and on these gifts so that we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit:

People **Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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

Officiant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is God's table and everyone is welcome here.

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Officiant Behold the true Light of the world, the Beloved of God, anointed by the Spirit.
Blessed are those called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

God our help and strength, you have satisfied our hunger with this Eucharistic food, strengthen our faith, that through the death and resurrection of your Son, we may be led to salvation, for he is Lord now and for ever.

Officiant Let us pray.

People **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.**

Blessing

May you know the love of Christ, the mercy of the Father, and the fire of the Spirit as you go with the One God who is Father and Mother of us all.

Closing Hymn

1982 Hymnal #156 ~ *Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!*

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Announcements/Reminders

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 17th ~ Agape meal at 6pm and worship at 7pm

Good Friday, April 19th ~ Holy Eucharist at Noon & 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Sunrise service in our Memorial Garden (weather permitting or indoors) ~ 6am

Holy Eucharist & Baptism ~ 10am

Participants in today's service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge

Stephen Sikorski, Music Director

Denise Beneteau, Worship Leader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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