

THE PALM SUNDAY LITURGY

The Acclamation and Collect

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

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Priest: 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.

The Gospel of the Palms

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
(21:1-11)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Blessing of the Palms

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: 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.

The Procession

Before the procession, the following is said,

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

People: Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, Hymn 154 is sung.

THE PALM SUNDAY PROPER

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: 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 First Lesson: 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? There is no other god beside me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is no one besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. 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." Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; all who were incensed against him shall come to him and be ashamed. In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory.

Psalm 22:1-11

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.

The Second 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 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

*The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.
The Congregation remains seated for the first part of the Gospel.*

Jesus Delivered to Pilate and the Death of Judas

NARRATOR: When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death; they bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

JUDAS: I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.

NARRATOR: But they said,

CONGREGATION: What is that to us? See to it yourself.

NARRATOR: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

CONGREGATION: It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.

NARRATOR: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

The Trial Before Pilate

NARRATOR: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked

him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: You say so.

NARRATOR: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

PILATE: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

NARRATOR: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge; so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

PILATE: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

NARRATOR: And they said,

CONGREGATION: Barabbas.

NARRATOR: Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

NARRATOR: All of them said,

CONGREGATION: Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Then he asked,

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done?

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more.

CONGREGATION: Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION: His blood be on us and on our children!

NARRATOR: So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

CONGREGATION: Hail, King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Here the Congregation stands.

The Crucifixion and Deriding

NARRATOR: As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

CONGREGATION: You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

NARRATOR: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

CONGREGATION: He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."

NARRATOR: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Jesus' Death and Burial

NARRATOR: From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

JESUS: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

NARRATOR: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

CONGREGATION: This man is calling for Elijah.

NARRATOR: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

CONGREGATION: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

NARRATOR: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Here silence is kept for a time.

NARRATOR: At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

CONGREGATION: Truly this man was God's Son!

THE SERMON The Rev. Brad Mullis

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE form II 385

THE PEACE 360

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Organ Anthem

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Eucharistic Prayer A, p. 361

Holy, Holy

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Hymn 168 "O sacred head, sore wounded" *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

(Response: Thanks Be To God.)