



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

March 24, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

The liturgy follows the Book of Common Prayer, beginning at page 270.

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

The people gather outside the main entrance to the church.

OPENING ANTHEM

Cantor or Celebrant

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord;

People

Peace in heaven and glory in the high - est.

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

John 12:12-16

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE BLESSING OVER THE BRANCHES

The people raise their palm branches to be blessed.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

People

Celebrant

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...

Celebrant

... ev - er.

People

A - men.

Cantor or Celebrant

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

People

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

AT THE PROCESSION

Deacon

Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. A - men.

People

The people process, moving around St. Mary's Chapel and into the narthex, where children make "sweet hosannas ring." If desired, individuals may move directly into the nave instead of following the procession. When the procession reaches the nave, all sing the following hymn:

HYMN 154 "All glory, laud, and honor"

Valet will ich dir geben

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON [*The people are seated.*]

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?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 160 “Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow”

Cross of Jesus

Sung by all, standing. Today’s homily is inclusive and appropriate for children. Children’s Chapel will occur during the reading of the Passion Gospel at the end of the service today.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY The Rev. Ann Gillespie

A brief period of silence is observed for reflection. The people stand for the Prayers of the People.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [All remain standing.]

Form V, Book of Common Prayer, p. 389

The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. Throughout you are invited to add your own petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor ...we pray to you, O Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

The Intercessor concludes

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. [The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and are then seated.]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter’s work of sharing God’s love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: “Ave verum corpus”

William Byrd

(Sung in Latin) Hail, true Body, truly born
Of the Virgin Mary mild,
Truly offered, racked and torn,
On the Cross, for man defiled,
From whose love-pierced, sacred side
Flowed Thy true Blood’s saving tide:
Be a foretaste sweet to me
In my death’s great agony,
O Thou loving, gentle One,
Sweetest Jesus, Mary’s Son.

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Presider proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [The Presider continues.]

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:

SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 129

Robert Powell

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Presider continues and gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ and prays over the bread and wine.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Presider Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Presider continues

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.

Celebrant *People*

A-men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **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, HYMNAL, S 164

Franz Schubert

Sung by all.

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

INVITATION [The People are seated.]

As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Communion. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.

COMMUNION MUSIC [Sung by all.]

HYMN 458 (stanzas 1-2, 7) "My song is love unknown"

Love Unknown

HYMN 158 "Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended"

Herzliebster Jesu

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER [Said by all.]

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.

Children through second grade are invited to follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel at this time.

The congregation reads the portions of the Gospel printed in boldface type.

- Narrator The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.
- On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples said to him,
- Disciples "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?"
- Jesus "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."
- Narrator So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.
- When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,
- Jesus "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."
- Narrator They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,
- Disciples "Surely, not I?"
- Jesus "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."
- Narrator While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,
- Jesus "Take; this is my body."
- Narrator Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them,
- Jesus "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."
- Narrator When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- Jesus "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."
- Narrator Peter said to him,
- Peter "Even though all become deserters, I will not."
- Narrator Jesus said to him,
- Jesus "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."
- Narrator But he said vehemently,
- Peter "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."
- Narrator And all of them said the same.
- They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
- Jesus "Sit here while I pray."
- Narrator He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them,
- Jesus "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."
- Narrator And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.
- Jesus "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."
- Narrator He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,
- Jesus "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- Narrator And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping,

for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Narrator Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

Judas “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

Narrator So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

Judas “Rabbi!”

Narrator and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

Narrator All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him.

Accusers **“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 But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

High Priest “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

Narrator But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

High Priest “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Jesus “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Narrator Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

High Priest “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”

Narrator All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Accusers **“Prophesy!”**

Narrator The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Servant Girl “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

Peter “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.”

Narrator And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Servant Girl “This man is one of them.”

Narrator But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Bystanders **“Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”**

Narrator But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter "I do not know this man you are talking about."

Narrator At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

Jesus "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Narrator And he broke down and wept.

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,

Pilate "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus "You say so."

Narrator Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

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

Narrator 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,

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

Narrator 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,

Pilate "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

Narrator They shouted back,

Crowd "**Crucify him!**"

Narrator Pilate asked them,

Pilate "Why, what evil has he done?"

Narrator But they shouted all the more,

Crowd "**Crucify him!**"

Narrator 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,

Soldiers "**Hail, King of the Jews!**"

Narrator 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).

The people stand.

Narrator 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,

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

Narrator In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Chief Priests "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.”

Narrator 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,

Jesus “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Narrator When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders **“Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”**

Narrator And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystanders **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”**

Narrator 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,

Centurion “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Narrator There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used. The Presider says

Bow down before the Lord. *[All kneel.]*

The Presider continues with the prayer; the people respond

Amen.

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 435 (stanzas 1-4) “At the Name of Jesus”

King’s Weston

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL *[The people respond,]*

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Herzliebster Jesu* (Hymn 158)

Johann Sebastian Bach