

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

BCP 270 *Palm Sunday*

In preparation for this liturgy, have at the ready, branches you have gathered or scarves, banners, streamers or posters (especially created by children) you have chosen. Food will be needed for later in the Service.

The attempt to have everyone on a live microphone last week produced more noise than prayer, so you will be encouraged to pray along off-mic during those parts of the Service. When mics are on, please be careful about talking at home—everybody can hear you.

Microphones On (unmuted)

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

All: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Introduction

Priest: Dear friends in Christ, During Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's Paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered into the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self giving, suffering and death. Today we greet Jesus as our King, although we know His crown is thorns and His throne a cross. We follow Him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by the dark road of suffering and death, knowing that as we are united with him in his suffering on the cross we also share with him in the resurrection.

Let us pray.

All

**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 Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Microphones off (muted)

Celebrant

Almighty and Loving God, it is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through Christ Jesus our Savior. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and King with palm branches in their hands, crying "Hosanna in the highest," they scattered their cloaks as a carpet on the road before him..

We pray you, O Lord, ✝ to bless us as today we use these poor reminders of the excitement of the people of Jerusalem crying out "Hosanna in the Highest" and "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." May we always acknowledge Jesus as our Messiah and King and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life. *Amen.*

During the reading of the Gospel of the Palms wave the branches, scarves, etc. that you have prepared as if welcoming the Lord into your home.

Matthew 21:1-11

Deacon Hank Bristol

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."

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant:

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.

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Pat Metzger

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?

Microphones off (muted)

Psalms 31:9-16 In te, Domine, speravi

Kim Neighbors

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.**

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

**16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

The Epistle **Philippians 2:5-11**

Kate O'Connor

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.

Matthew 27:11-54 **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ** will be read at the end of the Service

The Sermon

Fr. Don Caron

Microphones on (un muted)

The Prayers of the People

Deacon: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Reader:

Peter Tobasco

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader: God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader: We pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin, our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop William, our Priest Don, our Deacon Hank, Brother John, Pastoral Associate Kate, Deacon Postulant Carol and Postulant Allie. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

Reader: We especially pray today in remembrance and thanksgiving for the birthdays of Ryleigh Farkas, Kristen Robinson, Jim Furey, Bonnie Wagman, Gwen Lockhart, Carol Reeder, Bryn Peeters and Jacob Mani Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

Reader: Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great

Reader: God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader: God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief, especially. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader: God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great

Reader: God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your

witnesses in heaven and on earth especially those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Priest: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Confession

Deacon: On this Palm Sunday, let us make our prayer of confession

Deacon: Jesus, our Lord, we shout hosannas to praise you. With eager hands, we place our palms of praise on the path before you.

Yet, Lord, we confess that the mouths that seek to praise you often deny or defy you.

People's Response: *Forgive us, Lord and help us to live as you would have us live*

Deacon: We confess that the hands that seek to serve you often become fists. We confess our praise is often empty.

People's Response: *Forgive us, Lord and help us to live as you would have us live*

Deacon: Just as the people of Jerusalem did long ago, We sing "Hosanna," now, but we will cry "Crucify" when a brother or sister causes us hurt or inconvenience

People's Response: *Forgive us, Lord and help us to live as you would have us live.*

Deacon: As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. Yet, we confess that we crave acceptance and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will.

People's Response: *Forgive us, Lord and help us to live as you would have us live.*

Deacon: Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of your obedience to you, our Father. Help us to be faithful and loving servants of Jesus, our King.

Amen.

The Peace

We extend to one another a sign of Peace.

The Thanksgiving

Priest **The Lord be with you.**

People And also with you.

Celebrant **Lift up your hearts.**

People 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.

Priest It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In this Season of Lent, through our bodily fasting after the model of Christ our Lord, you restrain our faults, raise up our minds, and bestow both virtue and its rewards.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty and worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise as we acclaim

Celebrant and People

**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.

Microphones off (muted)

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In this time of fear and stress, we turn our hearts to you, looking for your help and consolation.

While the natural world is blooming with the early signs of Spring, we hear the advice of medical experts who tell us to separate ourselves from each other for our own safety, and out of concern for one another.

Today we celebrate your love for all creation, and we remember the times our community of faith has gathered so often to be fed by your word and sacrament.

We remember the many times when your people were fed through your loving care.

In this Lent of isolation, we remember the food you provided your People as they journeyed through the wasteland toward the Promised land. We remember how Jesus fed the multitudes who had come to listen to his preaching in another wilderness place.

We join ourselves with the people who welcomed your Son, waving branches and carpeting his path into the royal city, in the hope of liberation.

And above all, we remember the evening when Jesus gathered with a small group of his friends, to link his life to the ancient story of liberation celebrated by the Jewish people in the Passover.

Jesus took the simple food and drink before him and created for all time a means by which those who love him may be joined intimately with him and each other.

He created a sacrament for your Church, but in this time of sickness, when our joyful

celebrations are curtailed, we cannot gather as we would wish.
So we turn to your words, "Whenever you do this, [whenever you eat and drink,] do it in remembrance of me."

We have feasted on your word, and now we give thanks that your love reaches to this generation so that having this food before us reminds us of the abundance of your goodness through which we are sustained every day.

With sorrow, we mourn the loss of your blessed Body and Blood. With gratitude, we take what you have made available to us as a taste of your grace. We thank you, Lord, our God

All: We thank you, Lord our God.

Celebrant: As one family we now pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,
People and Celebrant

**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.**

Priest: Loving God, bless all those spiritually gathered here today, as we remember the friendship and fellowship of our church. Thank you for the blessings of our individual and collective God-given gifts.

Place in our hearts the desire to make a difference to our families, to our community, to our country, and to the many cultures and peoples worldwide.

Give us peace in these times of distraction and uncertainty.

Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger; For our faith in a world where many know fear; For friends in a world where many know only loneliness.

Please bless this food we are about to share, Bless those who prepared it, those who serve it, and those who have worked to make today the special occasion that it is.

For all of this we give you thanks.

All: Amen

