

Grace Episcopal Church

The Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020



The Liturgy of the Palms

The Procession *All Glory, Laud and Honor* *H 154*

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

When Jesus and his disciples 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."

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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.**

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 *(standing)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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 people are seated as readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, and New Testament are read)

The First Lesson

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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? (50:4-9a) Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Psalm 31:9-16 (*said in unison*)

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

The Second Lesson

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

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. (2:5-11) Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence (*standing*) *Go to dark Gethsemane* *H 171*

The Holy Gospel

(the people are seated for the first part of the Passion. Customary responses are omitted)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The Sermon (seated)

Rev. Kit Brinson

(silence follows the sermon)

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Dan, Johnny, Gloria, Tasha, Joey, Keith, Chandler, Donna, Mitch, Jeanette, Una, Steven, Linda, Marcia, Larry, Alussa, Jim, Tina, Greg, Denny, Carol, Vicky, Tristan, Rachel, Freddy, James and family, Tifani and Leland, Faye, Jerry, Jackie, Teresa, Shaun, Norene, Sandra, C.J., Andrea, Lonnie, Allen, Michelle, John, Sam, Frances, Bill, David, Jean, Zachary, Judy, Diane, Lauren, Barb, and Shary, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Linda, Guy, Janiece, Bobbie, Maurice, Pat, Skip. Michael. Dakota, and Carroll, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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.**

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

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 Communion Hymn - Fairest Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus ruler of all nature
O Thou of God and man the son
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands
Robed in the blooming garb of spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the Angels Heaven can boast. *(Hymn 383)***

The Post Communion Prayer Let us pray.

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.

The Solemn Prayer over the People

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Dismissal

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, “If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me.” He said to his disciples, “How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinful men. Come, let us go.” Christ was obedient unto death. Go in peace.

The Procession *(The altar party and choir process out in silence to observe the solemn beginning of Holy Week)*

The Right Reverend Scott Benhase, Bishop of Georgia

The Reverend Kit H. Brinson, Rector

Mr. Mike Taylor, Musician