



Sunday, April 2, 2023

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Introduction

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Blessing of the Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Processional Hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor"

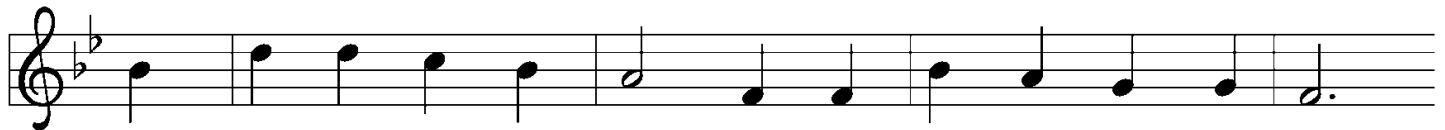
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

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."

Choir Anthem..... "Let the Rocks Cry Out" (Choir & Praise Band)

CCLI Song # 6451985

Robert Sterling

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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 awakens—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?

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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.

HERE ENDS THE READING

Gospel (Passion Reading): Matthew 26:14—27:66

After Jesus says, "And coming on the clouds of heaven."

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted**



Gospel continues...

After narrator says, "and he went out and wept bitterly."

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**



Gospel continues...

After narrator says, "he handed him over to be crucified."

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
For our atonement while we nothing needed,
God interceded.**



Gospel continues...

After the Centurion says, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.**



Gospel continues...

After narrator says, "and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone."

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.**



The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and
place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip
congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your
extravagant love for all. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose.
Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields,
service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets
who live alongside us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep (*especially Syria, Turkey and Ukraine*). Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. *Comfort those with suffer in body, mind or spirit (especially Mary Ann, Don, Barbara, Christi, Sue, Michael, Jenna, Joe, Dave, Joy, Bill, Lori, Vicki, Steve, Tyler, Norm, Penny, Michael, Ron, Sandy, Jay, Pete, Hadlee, Maryann, Shirley, Trisha, Bonnie, Henry, Del, Ruth, Sarah, Gloria, Carl, Sumi, Celine, Jim, Jonathan, Michael, Darcie and Gavin)*. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive

you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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,
forever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Distribution

We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.

Special Music..... "Remember Me When You Eat this Bread"
(Choir & Praise Band)

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Contributors: David Bailes, arr. R. Kevin Boesiger

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Post Communion Prayer

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song..... "Lamb of God"

☞ VERSE



1. Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have
(2. Your gift of) love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and
(3. I was so) lost I should have died; But You have



sent ____ Him from Your _ side, ____ to walk up - on ____ this guilt - y
scorned _ Him as He ____ died. ____ The hum - ble King ____ they named a
brought _ me to Your _ side ____ to be led by ____ Your staff and



sod, ____ and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, _ and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
rod, ____ and to be called a lamb of

2, 3.

CHORUS



2. Your gift of God. Oh _ Lamb _ of _ God, _ sweet _ Lamb of

Continued.....



God. — I love the ho - ly Lamb of — God. — Oh, wash me in — His pre-cious

1.

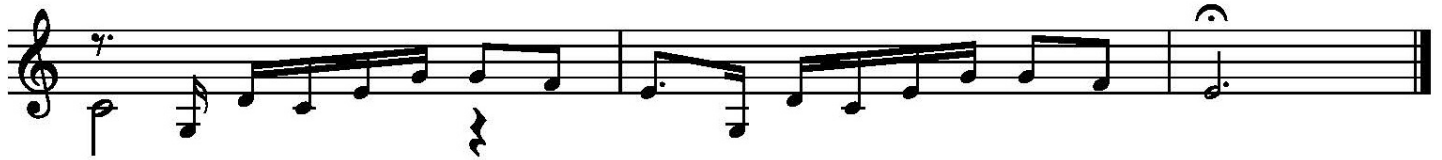


blood, — my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

D.S. || 2.



3. I was so Christ, the Lamb of



God.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in Love.

Thanks be to God.