

Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday



MARCH 24, 2024

9:30 AM

Welcome and Peace

Invocation

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing of Palms

Let us bless these palms we carry. 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.**

Gathering Song

All Glory Laud and Honor

ELW 344:1, 3-5

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**
The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **Refrain**

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **Refrain**

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. **Refrain**

Gospel Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those, who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lesson Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

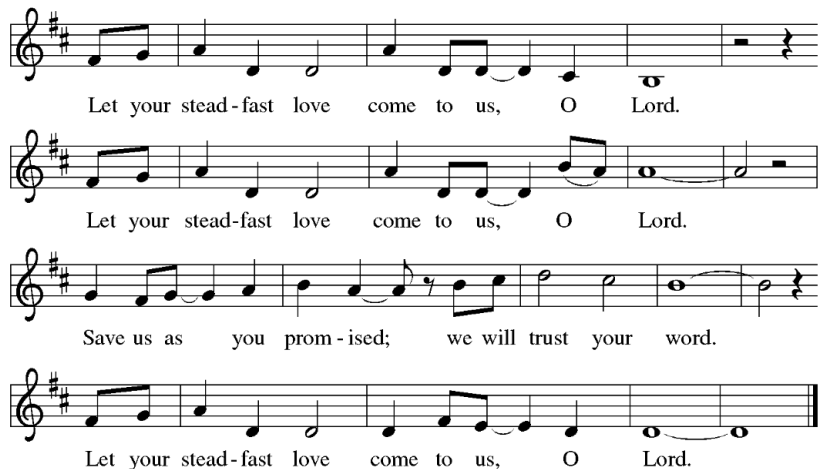
The lesson is from Philippians, the 2nd chapter.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Passion according to the Gospel of Mark 14:12 – 15: 47 Readers Theatre (NRSV)

Narrator: On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples questioned Jesus about the Passover Meal.

Disciple: 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, two disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. That evening, Jesus came there with the twelve disciples. And they took their places and began eating.

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:

Disciple: 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, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them.

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.

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.

Peter: Even though all become deserters, I will not.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.

Peter: Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.

Narrator: All of the disciples said the same.

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Narrator: They went to a place called Gethsemane.

Jesus: Sit here while I pray.

Narrator: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John. Jesus became distressed and agitated.

Jesus: I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.

Narrator: Going a little farther, Jesus 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: Jesus returned and found them sleeping.

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: Again, Jesus went away and prayed.

Jesus: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.

Narrator: Once more Jesus came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. Jesus returned a third time.

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.

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Narrator: While Jesus 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, Judas, the betrayer, had given them a sign.

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

Narrator: So, when Jesus came, Judas went up to him at once

Judas: Rabbi!

Narrator: And Judas kissed Jesus. 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.

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.

Priest: 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 addressed Jesus.

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

Narrator: But Jesus was silent and did not answer.

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: The high priest tore his clothes and addressed the council.

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

Narrator: All of them condemned Jesus as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him and to strike him, and to order him to prophesy. The guards also took him over and beat him.

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Narrator: 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.

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

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

Narrator: Peter went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began talking to the bystanders.

Bystander: This man is one of them.

Narrator: Peter denied it again. After a little while the bystanders accused Peter.

Bystander: Certainly, you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.

Narrator: Peter 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, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." Peter 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.

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Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

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.

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

Narrator: Pilot realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Crowd: We want Barabbas. Release Barabbas!

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

Crowd: Crucify him!

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But the crowd shouted all the more.

Crowd: Crucify him! 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.

Guard: 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). And they offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. They crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

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Narrator: 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 shook their heads and derided him.

Passerby: 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

Scribe: He saved others; he cannot save himself.

Chief Priest: 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: Some of the bystanders heard it and misunderstood.

Bystander: Listen, he is calling for Elijah.

Narrator: Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.

Bystander: 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. The centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, and 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. They 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.

Reflection

Vicar Karen Peterson

Hymn of the Day

My Song Is Love Unknown

ELW 343:1-4, 6

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.

We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
that he his foes from thence might free.
Here might I stay and sing – no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

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 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 the People

. . . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring. . . for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Offering

At the Name of Jesus

Williams and Curry

Offering Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. **Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**



Offering Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

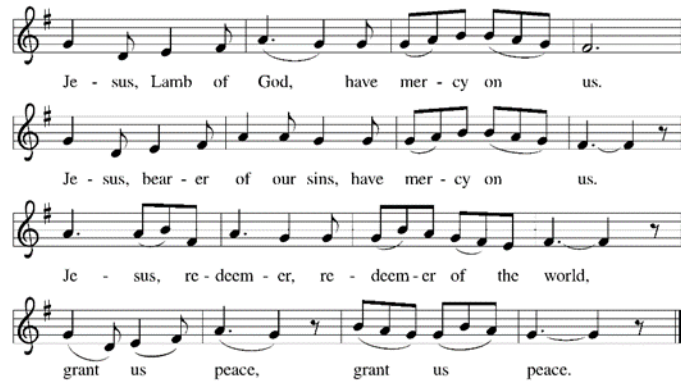
Words of Institution

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.

Communion Distribution

Jesus, Lamb of God



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,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus, **in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

Announcements

Sending Song

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Children of God, you are God's beloved.

Go in Grace, Grow in Faith. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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