



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

**St. George's Church • Glenn Dale Parish •
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington
April 5, 2020**

Officiant: This year, our observation of Palm Sunday and the Passion of Jesus is a service of remembrance. As we gather this morning in the midst of the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic our hearts are filled with sorrow for the suffering that we and others have experienced. We remember those who have died throughout the world and in our state. We know that many live in fear. Yet, we know that we are not alone. And so, as the Church remembers the story of Jesus's final journey to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover, and how he suffered death on the cross, we recount this story mindful that we live in fervent hope of the resurrection. And so we pray:

Collect

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility:

People: **Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, that we may 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.**

Celebrant Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord:

People **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 these mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, **Amen.**



Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 21:1-11

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Our first Gospel for today observes how the people greeted Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem by placing their cloaks and branches of palms on the ground in front of him as he rode on a donkey. Others waved their branches in the air in celebration of his triumphant arrival. They grabbed what was at hand, branches from palm trees – and so we might also use what is available to us. We can't distribute or bless palms this year, but we can use a branch or leaf, a flower or other green from your yard or a house plant – and wave away!

Symbolic Blessing of the Palms



Celebrant: 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 God 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 to 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant blesses greens, then says

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

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Let us now join our voices in song.

Hymn: 1982 Hymnal # 154: "All Glory Laud and Honor" v. 1, 3-4

Refrain Words by Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821); Music by Melchior Teschler (1584-1635)



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.

Verses



Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son, who
The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went; our
To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise; to



in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
thee now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

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Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Proclamation of the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew



READER ONE

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds who followed Jesus from Galilee were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Now, when it was two days before the Passover was to be observed, Jesus told his disciples to prepare for the feast. And he said: "You know that the Passover will take place in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

READER TWO

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the courtyard of the high priest, who was named Caiaphas. They conspired to arrest Jesus by treachery and to kill him. They looked for a way to do this in secret, lest the people be aroused to riot. And then, Judas of Iscariot went to them and agreed to betray Jesus into their hands.

Celebrant: On the night of Passover, knowing that he was to be betrayed, Jesus drew his friends, together to share the Passover meal, the celebration of liberation from bondage in Egypt. It is the night we when celebrate God's enduring presence in our lives, through all our trials, and agonies, and our triumphs and joys.

And so now we pray in remembrance of him.

Though we are separated from one another spatially, we remain connected to each other in heart and spirit as we contemplate the real presence of Christ in our midst. We remember that Christ is truly present with us, not only in bread and wine, but in our daily lives. Through this period of our physical separation, we fast from a literal participation in the sharing of communion, while also knowing that we receive the presence of Christ through our desire to share the sacrament. In that spirit let us pray together:

Holy One, help us to remember past celebrations of the sacrament of bread and wine as we experience your presence in our community. We ask that you renew in us the feelings and desires that make this experience holy for us. May we experience your presence now, even though we are not able to share the sacrament together in this time.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray:

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.
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.***

Anthem: If God Be for Us, Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin

If God be for us, who can be against us?
God is our refuge, God is our strength!
God is love, and from our sins redeems us,
God's mercy shall never end.
God alone is our foundation.
God alone is our salvation.
I am persuaded, if God be for us,
who can be against us.
If God is for us, who can be against us?
God is our splendor, God is our light!
God will shine the glory all around us.
Then why should we fear the night?
God alone is our sustainer.
God alone is our defender.
I am persuaded, if God be for us,
who can be against us.

The Lord of life is with us.
The Lord is ever near.
God's mighty arm will save us,
release our doubt and fear.
What power could ever take us?
We're safe in His embrace.
No word can sound against us,
for we are saved by grace.
If God be for us, who can be against us?
God is a Rock in a weary land!
God is strong and, by his power, defends
us.
He shelters us in His hand.
God alone is our Creator.
God alone is our sustainer.
I am persuaded, if God be for us,
who can be against us, Amen.

The reading of the Passion resumes

READER TWO

After the meal, Jesus and his disciples left for the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus asked them to stay awake with him. And then he moved further and prayed to God: "if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Finding them asleep, Jesus awakened his disciples and said: " See, the hour is at hand ...my betrayer is at hand" as Judas and the officers of the Chief Priest come to arrest him. The officers of the Chief Priest took Jesus first to Caiaphas and the other religious authorities, who accused him of blasphemy; and then early the next morning he was brought before Roman governor Pontius Pilate.

READER ONE

As Jesus stood before Pilate the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But Jesus gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that Pilate was greatly amazed.

READER TWO

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

READER ONE

While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." But, now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. And so, Pilate again asked, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "**Let him be crucified!**" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "**Let him be crucified!**"

READER ONE

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, and fearing that a riot was beginning – and because he was a coward without a hint of moral courage – he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

READER TWO

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.



Hymn *Were you There* LEVAS # 37

Traditional African American Spiritual arr. Charles Winfred Douglas
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Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there when they
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they



cru - ci - fied my Lord? O! Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble,
nailed him to the tree? O! Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble,
laid him in the tomb? O! Some - times it caus - es me to trem - ble,



trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

READER ONE

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. Now, they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots.

READER TWO

Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Two other enemies of the state were crucified with him that day, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The two others who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

READER ONE

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Then some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Silence is kept

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"



READER TWO

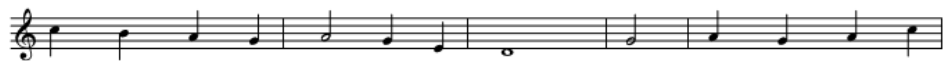
Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee

When it was evening there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph who was also a disciple of Jesus. He asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. So, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Dismissal Hymn *What Wondrous Love is This?* Hymnal 1982 # 439



What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
Lamb, who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing,
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

American Folk Hymn The hymns are used with permission of OneLicense.net A-701323

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

As we conclude the service today, you are invited to dwell longer to contemplate the image of the enshrouded Jesus in the garden as you occupy the empty garden bench alongside Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.



We will hold services to be conducted remotely throughout Holy Week. For details about each of them, go to the parish website announcements page. <https://www.stgeorgesglendale.org/announcements>

Tuesday, April 7 at 6 pm Evening Prayer. We will hold a brief service of lamentation in the spirit of the Tenebrae service as we reflect on passages from the Book of Lamentations and recall the story of Jesus being anointed at Bethany by an unnamed woman. This will be done on **Zoom**.

Wednesday, April 8 at 9 pm Compline using the Book of Common Prayer. This is also done on Zoom. Have your prayer book on hand; a digital copy will also be transmitted through the Zoom channel.

Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service and Watch. Gather at your table at home for this service, for which we will participate with one another using Zoom. Have some bread at the table with you – or any kind of baked good. We will also facilitate a virtual foot-washing, and Stripping of the Altar. After the service has completed, you may return to the Zoom channel throughout the night until 6:00 am to participate in the Watch. If available light a candle as you sit through the hour.

Friday, April 10 is Good Friday with services at noon and at 7 pm. Each service will recall the Passion story according to John and will be done on Zoom. At the evening service will also reflect with poems and music.

Saturday, April 11 is a pre-recorded Easter Vigil. The link will be found on the parish website. And you may access it any time **starting at 7 pm**. Again, have a candle to light as we light the Paschal candle and recall our Salvation History. We welcome back the Alleluias with this first service of Easter.

Sunday, April 12 The Solemn Feast of Easter. We will do a live stream. The link for this can be located on the Parish website Announcements page. The service will begin at 10:00 and a recording will be made at that time should you prefer to watch it later in the day.