

March 28, 2021

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday



Introduction to the day

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ACCLAMATION

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and 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. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

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

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then 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.**

BLESSING OF 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Silence is kept. Then the presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.

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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The 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.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have 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.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

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

¹³For 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.**

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

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1--15:47

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Narrator: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said,

Chief Priests: Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.

Narrator: While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

Crowd: **Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.**

Narrator: And they scolded her. But Jesus said,

Jesus: Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.

Narrator: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus,

Disciples: **Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?**

Narrator: So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,
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 the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

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,

Disciples: **Surely, not I?**

Narrator: Jesus said to them,

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, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

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. He said to them,

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. And Jesus said to them,

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.

Narrator: Peter said to him,

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

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

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

Narrator: But he said vehemently,

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

Narrator: And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit here while I pray.

Narrator: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be 3 distressed and agitated. And said to them,

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

Narrator: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

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 came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 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: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

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.

Narrator: Immediately, while he 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 the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

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

Narrator: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

Judas: Rabbi!

Narrator: and kissed him. 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. Then Jesus said to them,

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 4 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, saying,

Crowd: 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 asked Jesus,

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

Narrator: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

High Priest: Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?

Narrator: Jesus said,

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: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

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

Narrator: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Chief Priests: Prophecy!

Narrator: The guards also took him over and beat him.

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 and said,

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

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

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

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

Servant Girl: This man is one of them.

Narrator: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

Crowd: **Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.**

Narrator: But he 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." And he broke down and wept.

Narrator: 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. Pilate asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: You say so.

Narrator: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

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. Then he answered them,

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

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, Pilate Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?

Narrator: They shouted back,

Crowd: **Crucify him!**

Narrator: Pilate asked them,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: **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,

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

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 derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Crowd: 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 among themselves and saying,

Chief Priests: He saved others; he cannot save himself. 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?

Narrator: which means,

Jesus: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Narrator: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Crowd: **Listen, he is calling for Elijah.**

Narrator: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

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. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he 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. These 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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

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 INTERCESSION

On this Sunday of the Passion, we pray for all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "save us in your steadfast love." *A brief silence.*

O God of majesty, mercy and might, hear and heed our fervent prayers:
for the church around the world, that the faithful be nourished by your presence in the word,
for bishops, pastors, and deacons, that they be strengthened for their tasks of ministry;
for those who are providing the necessary technology for our worship at this time, . . .
A brief silence.

O holy God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For the earth, that it be saved from pollution and disregard;
for endangered animals, that they and their habitats be protected;
for scientists, that their knowledge of your earth will guide our society's choices, . . .
A brief silence.

O creating God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For peace throughout the world;
for an end to terrorism and religious violence;
for all elected leaders, that they serve the common good, . . . *A brief silence.*
O mighty God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For the countries hardest hit by the coronavirus;
for the fearful and the sick and their families;
for medical personnel and hospitals, . . . *A brief silence.*
O compassionate God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For all who are facing the criminal justice system;
for those wrongly accused of crime;
for those who are incarcerated, that they be kept safe, . . . *A brief silence.*
O righteous God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

For those whose needs we know,
for those whose needs are hidden;
for all who are sick, for the hungry,
for the dying; for those we name here, . . . *A brief silence.*
O benevolent God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

And we pray for ourselves: *A longer period of silence.*
O loving God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

Loving God, look with mercy on those who mourn for all those who died in Boulder who have died by the violence of our fallen world. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in our pain, bring your comfort, and in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life.
O compassionate God, we pray: **save us in your steadfast love.**

With thanks for this Holy Week; with thanks for the support of our community of faith;
with thanks for the saints who struggled through life and died in you;
we praise your salvation now and unto our end. *A brief silence.*
O eternal God, we pray to you: **save us in your steadfast love.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy,
through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

How to give

You can give an offering to Peace in Christ by mailing it to PO Box 2098,
Elizabeth, CO, 80107 or by giving on line through tithely.com.
Which can be used through this QR code:



As forgiven and reconciled people, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive our gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.
Gracious God, who has named and claimed us,
calling us your beloved children,
you know the secrets of our hearts.
When we sin and stray from your paths,
you astound us with your saving grace.
For this Word of life, **we give you thanks.**

Loving Jesus, living Word,
in you the Kingdom of God has come near;
through you all that was lost has been found.
Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead,
trusting your promise that we need not fear,
for you are with us.
For this Word of life, **we give you thanks.**

Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell,
into our scarcity, your abundance flows.
Enliven all communities with your good news.
Guide us to love and serve Jesus,
giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.
For this Word of life, **we give you thanks.**
All glory to you, holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Holy Week – Tuesday Men’s Bible Study 6:30pm
- Wednesday – 10am Morning Prayer
 - Maundy Thursday – 7pm worship
 - Good Friday – noon Stations of the Cross
 - 7pm worship
 - Holy Saturday – 8pm Easter Vigil

BIRTHDAY PRAYER (Tessa, Brad)

Watch over your child(ren)____, O Lord as (his/her/their) days increase; bless and guide (him/her/them) wherever (he/she/they) may be. Strengthen (him/her/them) when (he/she/they) stand(s); comfort (him/her/them) when discouraged or sorrowful; raise (him/her/them) up if (he/she/they) fall(s); and in (his/her/their) heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of (his/her/their) life (lives); through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER (Cathy and Brad)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we commend to your care____ and ____ as they celebrate their wedding anniversary. Knit them together in constant affection for each other. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, patience, and godliness so that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE (Jim, Jonathan, Jacob)

Name, when you were baptized, you were marked with the cross of Christ forever. Remember your baptism with thanksgiving and joy.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless name on the anniversary of *her/his* baptism. Continue to strengthen name with the Holy Spirit, and increase in *her/him* your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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