

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village facing you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her: untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, *'Tell the daughter of Sion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'* The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.'



Entrance Antiphon

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: ***Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!***

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. ***Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!***

Amen

Greetings and welcome.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

We acknowledge and confess our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

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

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones. **R**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Christ was humbler yet,

even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high

and gave him the name which is above all names.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

"What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?"

They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say,

"Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?"

He replied:

"Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him, 'The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.'"

The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

When evening came, he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said:

"I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me."

They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn,

"Not I, Lord, surely?"

He answered,

"Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!"

Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn,

"Not I, Rabbi, surely?"

Jesus answered: "They are your own words."

Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take it and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks, he gave it to them, saying:

"Drink, all of you, from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father."

After psalms had been sung, they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

“You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: *I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered*, but after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.”

At this, Peter said,

“Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.”

Jesus answered him,

“I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.”

Peter said to him,

“Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”

And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

“Stay here while I go over there to pray.”

He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them,

“My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.”

And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed:

“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.”

He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:

“So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Again, a second time, he went away and prayed:

“My Father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!”

And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them,

“You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.”

He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said, ‘The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge.’ So he went straight up to Jesus and said,

“Greetings, Rabbi.” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “My friend, do what you are here for.”

Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest’s servant and cut off his ear. Jesus then said,

“Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?”

It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds,

“Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.”

Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest’s palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement,

“This man said: ‘I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up.’”

The high priest then stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?”

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him,

“I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Jesus answered: “The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said,

“He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? You have just heard the blasphemy.”

They answered, “He deserves to die.”

Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him,

“Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?”

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

But he denied it in front of them all, saying: “I do not know what you are talking about.”

“When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there,

“This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.”

And again, with an oath, he denied it: “I do not know the man.”

A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.”

Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing: "I do not know the man."

At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor.

When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty silver pieces back to the chief priests and elders, saying:

"I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood."

They replied:

"What is that to us? That is your concern."

And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said,

"It is against the Law to put this into the treasury: it is blood-money."

So, they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: *And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.*

Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "It is you who say it."

But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him,

"Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?"

But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

"Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

"Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him."

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them,

"Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" They said, "Barabbas."

Pilate said to them: "But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

They all said: "Let him be crucified!"

Pilate asked: "Why? What harm has he done?"

But they shouted all the louder, "Let him be crucified!"

Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said,

"I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern."

And the people, to a man, shouted back, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying,

"Hail, king of the Jews!"

And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

"So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!"

The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, 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 puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God.'"

Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"

That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?'

When some of those who stood there heard this, they said,

“The man is calling on Elijah.”

And one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

“Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.”

“But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.”

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said,

“In truth this was a son of God.”

And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him,

“Your Excellency, we recall that this impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I shall rise again.’ Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.”

Pilate said to them:

“You may have your guard. Go and make all as secure as you know how.”

So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Homily

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*bow*) born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall 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 life everlasting. Amen

Bidding Prayers

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst women and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you, fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever

Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept this sacrifice from your hands, to the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church

Prayer over the Offerings

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For though innocent he suffered willingly for sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save the guilty. His Death has washed away our sins, and his Resurrection has purchased our justification.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer II.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Make holy therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take this all of you and eat of it
For this is my Body which will be given up for you.*

In a similar way, when supper was ended he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying

*Take this all of you and drink from it,
For this is the Chalice of my Blood. The Blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.*

The mystery of Faith.

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Therefore as we celebrate the memorial of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the bread of life and the chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and Malcolm our Bishop, and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph her spouse, the blessed Apostles, and all the saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you, through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles; Peace I leave you, My peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Sign of Peace

The Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord.

Farewell Blessing

(Hymns overleaf with Youtube links)

Hymns

Entrance Hymn (274)

1. Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep my praising,
keep me praising till the end of day.

Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!

2. Give me peace in my heart,
keep me resting....

3. Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving...

4. Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg2Ik3Hwzc

Offertory Hymn (165)

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now,
with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him,
Be still for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezSQHf8zeaU>

Communion Hymn (681)

This is my body, broken for you,
bringing you wholeness, making you free,
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,
bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go,
do not forget me; then you will see
I am still with you, and you will know
you're very close to me.

Filled with my Sprit, how you will grow!
You are my branches; I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
you are alive in me.

Love one another; I have loved you,
and I have shown you how to be free;
serve one another, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Jimmy Owens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrxGJAzAzJ0>

Recessional Hymn (491)

My soul proclaims you, mighty God,
My spirit sings your praise.
You look on me, you lift me up,
and gladness fills my days.

All nations now will share my joy;
your gifts you have outpoured.
Your little one you have made great?
I magnify my God.

For those who love your holy name,
your mercy will not die,
Your strong right arm puts down the proud
and lifts the lowly high.

You fill the hungry with good things,
the rich you send away.
The promise made to Abraham
is filled to endless day.

Magnificat, magnificat,
Magnificat, praise God!
Praise God, praise God, praise God,
praise God,
Magnificat, praise God!"

Anne Carter

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FA_qXDULD4