

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

Growing in Love to Become One with God's Purpose



The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
April 5, 2020
10:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
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 those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Here a Deacon or other person appointed reads Matthew 21:1-11

Priest *The Lord be with you*

People *And also with you*

Priest *Lift up your hearts*

People *We lift them to the Lord*

Priest *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Priest 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 for 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 for ever. *Amen.*

The following or some other suitable anthem may then be sung or said

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Entrance Hymn "All glory, laud, and honor". *The people process into the church as they sing.*

“All Glory, Laud and Honor” 154

Valet will ich dir geben

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. Refrain

The company of angels is praising thee on high;
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. Refrain

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. Refrain

To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain

The priest says the Collect from the altar.

The Collect for the Sunday of the Passion

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and 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.*

Epistle Philippians 2:5-11

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.

Hymn “O The Passion”

by David Baroni and Gary Sadler

Verse 1

O the passion O the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ
King of glory on the altar
Perfect Lamb of sacrifice
Who are we that He would love us
Who but He would give His life
O the passion O the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ

Verse 2

O the wisdom O the wonder
Of the power of the cross
Love so rare no words could tell it
Life Himself has died for us
Who are we that He would save us
Crucified to give us life
O the wisdom O the wonder
Of the power of the cross

Verse 3

O the passion O the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ
Death defeated by His rising
Darkness conquered by His light
We will sing His praise forever
Worthy is the Lamb of life
O the passion O the wonder
Of the fiery love of Christ

The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. (27: 11-54))

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

The congregation may remain seated during the Passion Gospel. At the verse which mentions the arrival of Golgotha all stand as they are able.

The Congregation reads the words printed in red.

READER 1: Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,

READER 2: "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

READER 1: The high priest stood up and said,

READER 2: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

READER 1: But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

READER 2: "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

READER 1: Jesus said to him,

READER 3: "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

READER 1: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

READER 2: "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

READER 1: They answered,

READER 2: "He deserves death."

READER 1: Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying,

READER 2: "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

READER 1: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said,

READER 2: "You also were with Jesus the Galilean."

READER 1: But he denied it before all of them, saying,

READER 2: "I do not know what you are talking about."

READER 1: When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

READER 2: "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

READER 1: Again he denied it with an oath,

READER 2: "I do not know the man."

READER 1: After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,

READER 2: "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you."

READER 1: Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

READER 2: "I do not know the man!"

READER 1: At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said:

READER 3: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

READER 1: And he went out and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said,

READER 2: "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

READER 1: But they said,

READER 2: "What is that to us? See to it yourself."

READER 1: Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,

READER 2: "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

READER 1: After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah,

READER 2: "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

READER 1: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

READER 2: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

READER 1: Jesus said,

READER 3: "You say so."

READER 1: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

READER 2: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

READER 1: But Jesus gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. 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,

READER 2: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

READER 1: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

READER 2: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

READER 1: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

READER 2: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

READER 1: And they said,

Congregation: "Barabbas."

READER 1: Pilate said to them,

READER 2: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

READER 1: All of them said,

Congregation: "Let him be crucified!"

READER 1: Then he asked,

READER 2: "Why, what evil has he done?"

READER 1: But they shouted all the more,

Congregation: "Let him be crucified!"

READER 1: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

READER 2: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

READER 1: Then the people as a whole answered,

Congregation: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

READER 1: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. 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,

READER 2: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

READER 1: 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. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

The Congregation stands as they are able.

And when 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; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,

READER 2: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

READER 1: Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

READER 2: "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."

READER 1: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

READER 2: "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.'"

READER 1: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. 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,

READER 3: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

READER 1: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

READER 2 "This man is calling for Elijah."

READER 1: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

READER 2: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

READER 1: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. 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,

READER 2: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

READER 1: 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, and 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 went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 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. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

READER 2: "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

READER 1: Pilate said to them,

READER 2: "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can."

READER 1: So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Silence

“Were You There” 172

Verse 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Verse 2

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Verse 3

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they pierced him the side?

Verse 4

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen*

The Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of suffering, and 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.*

(In the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, silently or aloud.)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Daniel, and for the leaders and ministers of our parish. Pray for the church.

I ask your prayers for the well-being of all people and nations; remembering our president, the Congress of the United States, Governors of our States, Heads of the nations that they may lead wisely in this dangerous time and care deeply for the Common Good of the people of the earth committed to their care. Pray for health and peace on the earth.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, and the sick. We especially ask healing and strength for June, Margaret, Brian, Dorothea, Lou, Millie Graf, Norman Milnes, Clara Bradbury, Ryan Mellor and Elisabeth Neu. And others we name in the silence.

I ask your thanksgiving for God's blessings to us; for this community of faith, for the Church throughout the world, all your children whom you have made of one blood.

I ask your prayers for all your children around the world who struggle to find peace and health in this time of pandemic. Allow us to find our way through this time as our eyes are firmly fixed on you.

May we find grace, strength and hope as we have gathered our families around us. May this be a time of encouragement, healing, and coming together.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women who are working to protect our nation at this time of need. These prayers are for all who work in essential jobs; grocery workers, doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, administrators, food workers, cleaning staff, clerks and all those who serve in hospitals, medical offices, retirement centers and testing centers. We also pray for the researchers who are working to develop new medicines and vaccines to fight Covid-19.

We pray God's grace and guidance for "first responders" and law enforcement officers in our communities, as well as those on active duty in our military services; especially Alex Oliver, Evan Farren, Andrew Pascuzzi, Steven Masker, Connor Kreston, Jon Clark, Chris Fanizzi, Kyle Beck, Jaime Johnstonbaugh, Justin Miller, Michael Selner and their families. Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

We pray for the day when this crisis has passed. May we be ready to face that day with hope and new vision because in this time we have followed your Holy Spirit step by step, responding in joyful obedience to your daily guidance. All our hope on you, our God, is founded.

The Passion Sunday Closing Prayer

Service Ends in Silence