Palm Sunday Liturgy ✤ April 5, 2020

Gathering Prayer

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

The Palm Gospel

Deacon　　A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.　　　　*(Matthew 21:1-11)*

People　　**Hosanna in the highest!**

Deacon

When Jesus and the 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.' All of this took place to fulfil 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.'

People　　**Hosanna in the highest!**

Deacon

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!'

People　　**Hosanna in the highest!**

Deacon

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.' The Word of the Lord.

People　　**Thanks be to God. Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer Over the Palms

Celebrant　　The Lord be with you.

People　　**And also with you.**

Celebrant　　Let us pray. God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let these palms 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 is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant　　Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People　　**Hosanna in the highest!**

Deacon　　Let us go forth in peace.

People　　**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Song: Freedom is Coming　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*Wave your palms or banners!*

Freedom is coming, freedom is coming, freedom is coming, oh yes I know.
Oh yes I know, oh yes I know, oh yes I know, oh yes I know.　*[Verse 2: Jesus is…]*

The First Jerusalem Reading: Matthew 21:12 – 15a
Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you are making it a den of robbers.' The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David', they became angry.

The Second Jerusalem Reading: Matthew 21:42-43, 45
Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Third Jerusalem Reading: Matthew 23:13-14, 23-25, 37
Then Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Celebrant
Let us pray. Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: "A stable lamp is lighted," #104, verses 1 - 3
1. A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

2. This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull and dumb,
And lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.

3. Yet he shall be forsaken and yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men;
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.

Our worship continues as we are invited to join our diocesan Passion Sunday liturgy on Facebook or Youtube.