

Palm & Passion Sunday  
9AM Zoom Worship  
March 28, 2021

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

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

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

**2. The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went,  
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.** *Refrain*

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

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

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

(Mark 11:1-10)

*People* **Hosanna in the highest!**

*Reader*

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

the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!' 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 Savior, 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!**

Song: "Hosanina"

The Jerusalem Readings

*Celebrant*

In the days following his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Gospels testify that Jesus challenged the religious and civil authorities again and again. The city's welcome turned to fear and anger.

The First Jerusalem Reading: Mark 11:15-19

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, 'Is it not written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations"? But you have made it a den of robbers.' And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

Psalm 118:15-18

*read by all*

**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**

**"This is the gate of the LORD; he who is righteous may enter."**

**I will give thanks to you,**

**for you answered me and have become my salvation.**

**The same stone which the builders rejected**

**has become the chief cornerstone.**

**This is the LORD'S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

## The Second Jerusalem Reading: Mark 12:1-12

Then Jesus began to speak to them in parables. 'A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watch-tower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?' When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Psalm 31, *selected verses*

*Read by all*

**Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.  
I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

## The Third Jerusalem Reading: John 11:47 - 50, 53

Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, 'What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.' One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.' So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

Psalm 31, *selected verses*

*Read by all*

**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.  
But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.  
My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me."**

*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.**

The Passion Gospel According to Mark

Mark 14:32 - 15:47

- NARRATOR They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,
- JESUS Sit here while I pray.
- NARRATOR He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he 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.
- JESUS Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.
- NARRATOR He 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 he 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 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,

BYSTANDER I 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?

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,

BYSTANDERS      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,

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,

GIRL              This man is one of them.

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

BYSTANDER 2    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.  
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      He 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,

BYSTANDERS Crucify him!

NARRATOR Pilate asked them,

PILATE Why, what evil has he done?

NARRATOR But they shouted all the more,

BYSTANDERS 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, saying,

BYSTANDERS 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).

*You may stand at this point, and remain standing for the rest of the reading.*

- NARRATOR      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,
- BYSTANDER 1    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 PRIEST    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? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- NARRATOR      When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,
- BYSTANDERS     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 2    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 Joseph, 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 Joseph saw where the body was laid.

*A silence is kept.*

The Confession & Absolution

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*A substantial silence for reflection follows.*

*People*    **God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have  
done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*The Celebrant pronounces absolution, saying*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

Anthem: "So much wrong"

*This was our first virtual ensemble, created in March and early April of 2020. As we listen or sing along, we may dwell with the feelings of this long year, as well as the feelings stirred up by the Passion Gospel.*

Homily

*Intercessor*

Let us bring to the Merciful One our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for equity, liberation, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who struggle with isolation, loneliness, or feeling abandoned, that they may find support and encouragement,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, who feel that God is far from them,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all essential workers and healthcare workers, Especially ....

And those you now name:....

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: ....

And those whom you now name: ....

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who have died, especially .... ; for those who mourn; and for ourselves,

That we may find mercy in the day of Christ,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in your great mercy, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Holy God,  
holy and mighty,  
holy immortal One,  
have mercy upon us.**

The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you!  
*All* **And also with you!**

*We greet one another in the name of Christ.*

The Blessing

*Celebrant* Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the holy and undivided Trinity, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

Dismissal

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord,  
*People* **Thanks be to God!**

Sending Hymn: "O sacred head"

Hymn #168, verses 1 - 3

**O sacred head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head surrounded with mocking crown of thorn:  
What sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendor the hosts of heaven adore!**

**Thy beauty, long-desirèd, hath vanished from our sight;  
thy power is all expirèd, and quenched the light of light.  
Ah me! for whom thou diest, hide not so far thy grace:  
show me, O Love most highest, the brightness of thy face.**

**In thy most bitter passion my heart to share doth cry,  
with thee for my salvation upon the cross to die.  
Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath,  
to mourn thee, well-beloved, yet thank thee for thy death.**