

Palm Sunday Liturgy
St. Thomas, Battle Creek
Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Musical Prelude

The service begins with the opening acclamation

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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 one of the following

Matthew 21:1-11 (Trish Harris)

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

When Jesus and his 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." This took place to fulfill 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."

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!"

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.
Thanks be to God.

The Celebrant then says the following blessing, the people hold up their branches of palm or other greenery.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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.**

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

Hymn: All glory, laud, and honor

**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.

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

**The company of angels
are praising thee on high;
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.**

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

The celebration continues with the Salutation and Collect of the Day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 (Hans Prechtel)

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:9-16 (Sung)

In te, Domine, speravi

- 9 Have 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.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For 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.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *

and in your loving-kindness save me."

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew. (*Company*)

The people's responses before and after the Gospel reading are omitted. The Passion narrative is read dramatically, the role of the crowd is read by the congregation and is in bold. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion.

Narrator: Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: You say so.

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

Pilate: Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Narrator: But he 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,

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

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

Pilate: Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Narrator: And the people responded,

People: **Barabbas.**

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Narrator: All of them said,

People: **Let him be crucified!**

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: Why, what evil has he done?

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

People: **Let him be crucified.**

Narrator: 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,

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

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

People: **His blood be on us and on our children!**

Narrator: 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,

Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator: 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.

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, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 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,

Bystanders: 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.

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

Chief Priests: 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.'

Narrator: 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,

Jesus: Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Narrator: that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystanders: This man is calling for Elijah.

Narrator: 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,

Bystanders: Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Narrator: 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,

Centurion: Truly this man was God's Son!

Sermon

Musical Offering: (McKenzie?)

The Prayers of the People (Sue Shafe)

Petitions are offered by the intercessor. After each petition the people respond

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers the Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**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 Solemn Prayer over the People

Bow down before the Lord.

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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Musical Postlude