

Refrain
Have mercy on me, O Lord.

THE LORD GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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.*

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

COLLECT

Psalm 31: 9-16 from the Book of Common Prayer

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| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; * I am as useless as a broken pot.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. * I have said, "You are my God.</p> <p>15 My times are in your hand; * rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.</p> <p>16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your loving-kindness save me."</p> |
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SECOND READING: 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.

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When the Liturgy of the Palms immediately precedes the Eucharist, the celebration begins with the Salutation and Collect of the Day.

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.*

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and appropriate hymns, the suggested Psalm (Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29), or anthems are sung. At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.

The Procession

Hosanna in the highest.

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

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

Celebrant: 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.*

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

PALM SUNDAY
Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

RCL

The Liturgy of the Palms

When circumstances permit, the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession. The branches of palm or of other trees or shrubs to be carried in the procession may be distributed to the people before the service, or after the prayer of blessing.

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.*

LUKE 19:28-40

JESUS WENT ON AHEAD, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Gospel: Luke 22:14–23:56 (or Luke 23:1–49)

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

NARRATOR: When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!

NARRATOR: Then the apostles began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among the apostles as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them,

JESUS: The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

NARRATOR: And Peter said to Jesus,

PETER: Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to his apostles,

JESUS: When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLE: No, not a thing.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them,

JESUS: But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, “And he was counted among the lawless”; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLE: Lord, look, here are two swords.

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: It is enough.

NARRATOR: Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

NARRATOR: All of them asked,

ELDER 2: Are you, then, the Son of God?

NARRATOR: Jesus said to them,

JESUS: You say that I am.

NARRATOR: Then they said,

ELDER 3: What further testimony do we need?

ELDER 2: We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

[Luke 23:1–49]

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus saying,

ELDER 1: We found this man perverting our nation,

ELDER 2: forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor,

ELDER 3: and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked Jesus,

PILATE: Are you the king of the Jews?

NARRATOR: Jesus answered,

JESUS: You say so.

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

ELDER 1: He stirs up the people

ELDER 2: by teaching throughout all Judea,

ELDER 3: from Galilee where he began even to this place.

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, Pilate sent Jesus off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about Jesus and was hoping to see him perform some sign. Herod questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked him; then Herod put an elegant robe on Jesus, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, **PILATE:** You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, this man has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.

NARRATOR: Then the elders all shouted out together,

ELDER 2: Away with this fellow!

ELDER 3: Release Barabbas for us!

NARRATOR: (Barabbas was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

ELDER 1: Crucify, crucify him!

NARRATOR: A third time Pilate said to them,

PILATE: Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.

NARRATOR: But the Elders kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that Jesus should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. Pilate released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and

murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.” For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. (*All stand.*) When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

JESUS: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

ELDER 1: He saved others;

ELDER 2: let him save himself

ELDER 3: if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIER 1: If you are the King of the Jews,

SOLDIER 2: save yourself!

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him saying,

CRIMINAL 2: Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

NARRATOR: Jesus replied,

JESUS: Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

JESUS: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. (*Silence may be kept.*)

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

CENTURION: Certainly this man was innocent.

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all Jesus’ acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. (*Here ends Luke 23:1–49*) Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph took the body down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.