

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "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." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

posite the tomb.

and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,

sons of Zebedee.

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 Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed

were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were 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 tom. 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 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bot-

Silence may be kept

loud voice and breathed his last.

see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for sabbath?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" noon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the after-

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, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 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, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

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, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 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, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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.

All Stand

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, "'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.'" In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "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.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

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, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent.

fled.

and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures rest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was

See, my betrayer is at hand."

Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:36-27:54-66

Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "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."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." 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, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 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, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." 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, "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."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

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.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

1 My God, my God, why have
you forsaken me? * and are so
far from my cry and from the
words of my distress?
2 O my God, I cry in the
daytime, but you do not
answer; * by night as well,
but I find no rest.
3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises
of Israel.
4 Our forefathers put their trust
in you; * they trusted, and you
delivered them.
5 They cried out to you and were
delivered; * they trusted in you
and were not put to shame.
6 But as for me, I am a worm
and no man, * scorned by all
and despised by the people.

7 All who see me laugh me to
scorn; * they curl their lips
and wag their heads, saying,
"He trusted in the LORD;
let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he
delights in him."
8 Yet you are he who took me
out of the womb, * and kept
me safe upon my mother's
breast.

9 I have been entrusted to you
ever since I was born; * you
were my God when I was
still in my mother's womb.
10 Be not far from me, for
trouble is near, * and
there is none to help.

Psalms 22:1-11

COLLECT

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.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:21-25

Thus says the LORD, Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? There is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is no one besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: "To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; all who were incensed against him shall come to him and be ashamed. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory.

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."

Matthew 21:1-11

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.*

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

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.

The Liturgy of the Palms



Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*

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

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.*

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

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: *Hosanna in the highest.*

The Procession

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.
People: *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung, such as the hymn "All glory, laud, and honor" and Psalm 118:19-29. At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said.

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.*