

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 - Year A



About today's Liturgy

The dual nature of the Liturgy for this Sunday is evident from the title. It begins with the pomp and glory of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the shouts of "Hosanna" to our King. These hosannas soon change to "Crucify him, crucify him," as the Passion Gospel is narrated and dramatically proclaimed. We are all part of this great drama of salvation: God's redemption of the world through his only-begotten Son. The truth of this day is that we are all responsible, through our sins, for the Passion and Death of our Lord. The glory of this day is that we know, by faith, the truth of the Resurrection and the promise of everlasting life with him who suffered and died for us, and rose again.



The Liturgy of the Palms

*The congregation gathers in
Clardy Hall.*

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.*

Lector: A Reading from the
Gospel of Matthew (21:1-11).

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 Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with you.

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

People: 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. Bless, O Lord, these branches. Let them 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 Branches of Palm are distributed.

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

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Everyone follows the Crucifer to the entrance of the Church.

All stop at the Entrance as the Celebrant offers the following Collect.

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: Meercifully 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.*

After the prayer, the congregation enters the Church and takes their places in the pews of their choice.

Please remain standing for hymn 154 which is found in the Maroon Hymnal.

“All glory, laud, and honor”

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

****If you are able, please kneel****

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 thee and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

****All are seated****

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

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 wakens--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?

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

****Remain seated****

Psalm 31:9-16

Lector:

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

All:

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."

Said by all:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11

Lector: A reading from 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

****All stand****

The Gospel Hymn 171

Maroon Hymnal

"Go to dark Gethsemane"

The Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

****No response is made****

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. 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. 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. 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, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." 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, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 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, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

****No response is made****

****Please be seated****

The Sermon

The Rev. Gary D. Hill

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lector: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

****Please kneel if you are able****

Leader: For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For our Bishops, for our clergy, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those we name before thee now _____.

let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. Defend us, deliver us, and in your

compassion protect us,
O Lord, by your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Lector: In the communion of all the saints,

People: We commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. Amen.

Celebrant: For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

All:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in thy compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by thy Spirit that we may love and serve thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant:

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Offertory Songs

Glorify thy Name - Yellow Book # 45
Lord, be Glorified - Yellow Book # 51

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him, above ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks
unto our Lord God.

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and
joyful thing, always and everywhere to
give thanks to you, Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for
our sins was lifted high upon the cross,
that he might draw the whole world to
himself; who by his suffering and death
became the author of eternal salvation
for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our
voices with Angels and Archangels and
with all the company of heaven, who
forever sing this hymn to proclaim the
glory of your Name.

****Sung by all****

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

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

****If you are able, please kneel for the
Prayer of Consecration****

Holy and gracious Father: in your
infinite love you made us for yourself,
and, when we had fallen into sin and
become subject to evil and death, you, in
your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only
and eternal Son, to share our human

nature, to live and die as one of us, to
reconcile us to you, the God and Father
of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross,
and offered himself, in obedience to your
will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole
world.

On the night he was handed over to
suffering and death, our Lord Jesus
Christ took bread; and when he had
given thanks to you, he broke it, and give
it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and
when he had given thanks, he gave it to
them, and said, "Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for
the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you
drink it, do this for the remembrance of
me."

Therefore we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our
redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his
death, resurrection, and ascension, we
offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be
for your people the Body and Blood of
your Son, the holy food and drink of new
and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully
receive this holy Sacrament, and serve
you in unity, constancy, and peace; and

at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Communion of the People

The Gifts of God for the People of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Songs

I Come with Joy - Yellow Book # 72
Father, I Adore You - Yellow Book # 92

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

If you are able, please kneel

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Benediction

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn 479

Maroon Hymnal

"Glory be to Jesus"

Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Paschal - Adjective

1. Of or pertaining to Easter.
2. Of or pertaining to Passover