

# Palm Sunday

and the



## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Route 539 + Whiting, New Jersey 08759

### Our Mission

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered, to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them."* Matthew 7:20

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., M.Div.; Th.M.

Rector

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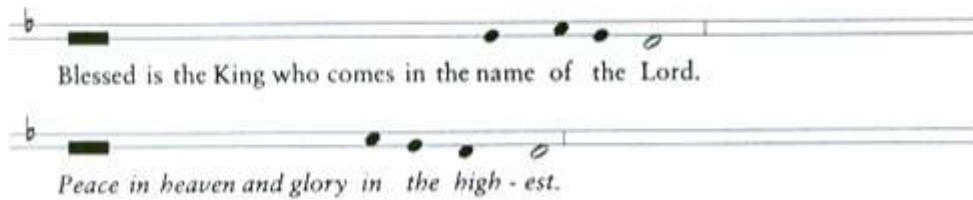
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*Year C*

## *Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion)*

*The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing*



*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.*

*Here a Deacon or other person appointed reads the following (Luke 19: 28-40)*

And when he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Beth'phage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If any one asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this, 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works 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!" And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."


*The Celebrant then says the following blessing*




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.*

*While passing out the Palms the Choir will sing "The Palms" or some other suitable anthem  
The following may then be sung or said*



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



Ho-san-na in the high-est.

### *The Procession*



Let us go forth in peace.

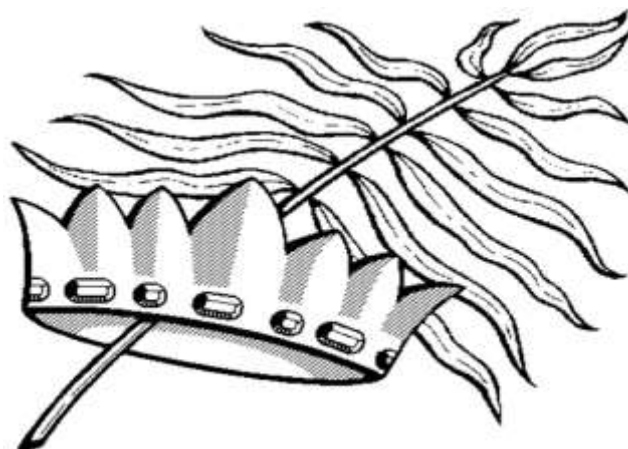
*Deacon*



In the name of Christ. A-men.

*People*

*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 118:1-2, 19-29.*



*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!  
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;  
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;  
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring.

*Repeat Refrain*

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One,  
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply,  
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent,  
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise,  
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

*The stanzas may be sung by choirs alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.*

*At a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following 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.*

### *Collect of the Day*

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.*

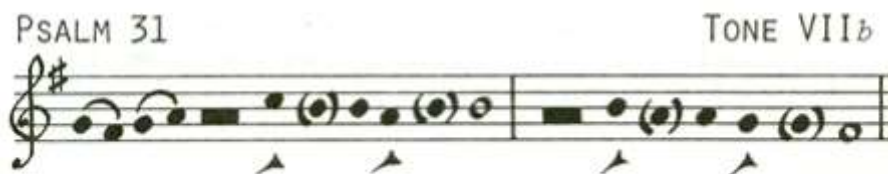
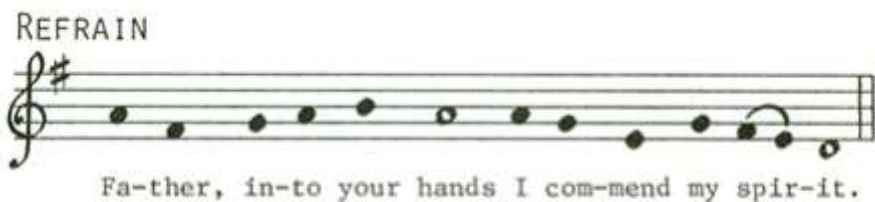
## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him that is weary. Morning by morning he wakens, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore I have set my face like a 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 is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

31: 9-16

*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. (refrain)
- 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. (refrain)

- 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. (refrain)
- 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." (refrain)

### *Second Reading*

### *Philippians 2:5-11*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (22:39-23:56)**

**Narrator:** And Jesus came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them,

**Jesus:** "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**Narrator:** And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

**Jesus:** "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."

**Narrator:** And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

**Jesus:** "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**Narrator:** While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

**Jesus:** "Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?"

**Narrator:** And when those who were about him saw what would follow, they said,

**Apostles:** "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

**Narrator:** And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

**Jesus:** “No more of this!”

**Narrator:** And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him,

**Jesus:** “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

**Narrator:** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said,

**Maid:** “This man also was with him.”

**Narrator:** But he denied it, saying,

**Peter:** “Woman, I do not know him.”

**Narrator:** And a little later some one else saw him and said,

**Man #1:** “You also are one of them.”

**Narrator:** But Peter said,

**Peter:** “Man, I am not.”

**Narrator:** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying,

**Man # 2:** “Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.”

**Narrator:** But Peter said,

**Peter:** “Man, I do not know what you are saying.”

**Narrator:** And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

**Jesus:** “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.”

**Narrator:** And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and asked him,

**Congregation:** “Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?”

**Narrator:** And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their council, and they said,

**Congregation:** “If you are the Christ, tell us.”

**Narrator:** But he said to them,

**Jesus:** “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

**Narrator:** And they all said,

**Congregation:** “Are you the Son of God, then?”

**Narrator:** And he said to them,

**Jesus:** “You say that I am.”

**Narrator:** And they said,

**Congregation:** “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

**Narrator:** Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

**Congregation:** “We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king.”

**Narrator:** And Pilate asked him,

**Pilate:** “Are you the King of the Jews?”

**Narrator:** And he answered him,

**Jesus:** “You have said so.”

**Narrator:** And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes,

**Pilate:** “I find no crime in this man.”

**Narrator:** But they were urgent, saying,

**Congregation:** “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

**Narrator:** When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length; but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then, arraying him in gorgeous apparel, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them,

**Pilate:** “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him.”

**Narrator:** But they all cried out together,

**Congregation:** “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”

**Narrator:** —a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out,

**Congregation:** “Crucify, crucify him!”

**Narrator:** A third time he said to them,

**Pilate:** “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.”

**Narrator:** But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

+ *ALL STAND* +

**Narrator:** And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said,



**Jesus:** “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!’ 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 him. And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said,

**Jesus:** “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

**Narrator:** And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

**Congregation:** “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

**Narrator:** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying,

**Congregation:** “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

**Narrator:** There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying,

**Criminal #1:** “Are you not the Christ? 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 justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”

**Narrator:** And he said,

**Criminal #2:** “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

**Narrator:** And he said to him,

**Jesus:** “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Narrator:** It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 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 thy hands I commit my spirit!”

**Narrator:** And having said this he breathed his last.

+ *ALL KNEEL or STAND SILENTLY* +

**Narrator:** Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said,

**Centurion:** “Certainly this man was innocent!”

**Narrator:** And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things. Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and 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.



Today's liturgy is in two parts. The Liturgy of the Palms celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week of his Passion. After we hear Luke's account of that event, we give thanks over the branches that we carry. A procession then moves into the church building with festive songs of "Hosanna in the highest!"

The second part of today's liturgy changes from triumph to tragedy as it focuses on the suffering and death of Jesus. The account of the Lord's Passion from Luke's gospel often is read with individuals and congregation taking various parts so that we may have a fuller sense of sharing with him in his redemptive acts of dying and rising for our salvation.

The Old Testament reading is one of Isaiah's poems about the suffering servant of God whose suffering atones for the sin of the people. This passage and others like it are understood by Christians to foretell the suffering and death of Jesus.

The reading from Philippians is an early Christian hymn which announces that Jesus' Lordship is revealed not in the power of his divinity but in self-giving love to the point of dying for us, his beloved. This is the ultimate restoration from exile brought about by Jesus.

Today we enter into the celebration of the mighty acts of God which brought about that restoration. During this week, we will rediscover what God has done for us, rediscover the meaning of baptism, and rediscover the meaning of our sharing in Eucharist.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*

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