

Sunday, April 5, 2020



BAS Service of the Word

The Sunday of the Passion with the Liturgy of the Palms

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

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.

On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.

The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.

Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.

We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death.

United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy into the celebration of those mighty acts whereby you give us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they 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 fulfil 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 Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest.

May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ 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 forever. Amen.

Into Jerusalem Jesus Rode CP 183

*Into Jerusalem Jesus rode, triumphant king acclaimed;
palm branches spread to honour his way,
garments laid down as tokens of praise;
shouts of "Hosanna" surged through the throng into Jerusalem.*

*Within Jerusalem Jesus stood masquerade king reviled:
thorns made a crown (grim satire of truth),
robe like a wound thrown over his back:
echoes of "Crucify" filled the air within Jerusalem.*

*Outside Jerusalem Jesus hung, crucified King despised;
wood formed a cross suspending his life,
soldiers cast lots to deal out his clothes;
his lonely cries: "My God"; "It is done" outside Jerusalem.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**We thank you, O God,
that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day
to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.
Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,
and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

May the Peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

A Spendthrift Lover Is the Lord CP 177

***A spendthrift lover is the Lord who never counts the cost
or asks if heaven can afford to woo a world that's lost.
Our lover tosses coins of gold across the midnight skies
and stokes the sun against the cold to warm us when we rise.***

***Still more is spent in blood and tears to win the human heart,
to overcome the violent fears that drive the world apart.
Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face of one who bears our scars
and empties out the wealth of grace that's hinted by the stars.***

***How shall we love this heart-strong God who gives us everything,
whose ways to us are strange and odd; what can we give or bring?
Acceptance of the matchless gift is gift enough to give.
The very act will shake and shift the way we love and live.***

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,
your love finds full expression
in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son,
who willingly met betrayal and death
to set us free from sin.
Give us courage to live obediently in these days
until we greet the glory of our risen Saviour. Amen.**

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*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 backwards.*

*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?*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 31:9-16

- 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 neighbours,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a corpse, 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."

2nd 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

May God be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

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. 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 judgement 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."

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

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.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

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.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

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.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

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.

pause

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!"

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us confess our faith as we say,
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbours,
and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Melissa our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. Please add your own petitions

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. Please add your own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ,
and for those whose faith is known to you alone,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Please add your own petitions

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.

Grant our requests as may be best for us.

This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

My Song Is Love Unknown CP 184

***My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take fail flesh, and die?***

***He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
but all made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
but O my friend, my friend in-deed, who at my need his life did spend!***

***Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King;
then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.***

***Why, what has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.***

***They rise and deeds will have my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.***

***Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.***

*please remember to mail in or drop off your offering at the church
or consider using the Pre-Authorized Debit system*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sunset to Sunrise Changes Now CP 188 (tune 436)

***Sunset to sunrise changes now,
for God doth make the world a-new;
on the Redeemer's thorn-crowned brow
the wonders of that dawn we view.***

***Even though the sun withholds its light,
lo! A more heavenly lamp shines here,
and from the cross on Calvary's height
gleams of eternity appear.***

***Here in o'erwhelming final strife
the Lord of life hath victory,
and sin is slain, and death brings life, and
earth inherits heaven's key.***