

Worship Plan for Sunday, April 2, 2023

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

GATHERING

If possible, the assembly gathers at a designated place outside the usual worship space, so that all may enter in procession. Palm branches, or branches of other trees and shrubs, are distributed before the service begins.

PRELUDE

ACCLAMATION -- OUTSIDE

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

Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying 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. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"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."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The 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!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING OF PALMS

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PROCESSION (ELW p. 256)

The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

The assembly follows the ministers into the church. "All glory, laud, and honor" (#344) and other hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung as the people process into the church or once they have taken their places.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The 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. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I ¹ am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat ¹ and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my ¹ years with sighing;**

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones ¹ are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to ¹ my acquaintances;

when they see me in the street ¹ they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, ¹ out of mind;**

I am as useless as a ¹ broken pot. R

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is ¹ all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to ¹ take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in ¹ you, O LORD.**

I have said, “You ¹ are my God.

¹⁵My times are ¹ in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;**

save me in your ¹ steadfast love.” R

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus’ obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind—
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

GOSPEL -- READER'S THEATER-STYLE -- END WITH SILENCE FOR REFLECTION: Matthew 26:14--
27:66

HYMN OF THE DAY

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is
Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to
proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed
appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their
human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted
for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies.
Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting
trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated,
lonely, or fearful (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers,
deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as
they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING MEDITATION MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

**Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;

**you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our
neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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