



# A Virtual Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020



*Loving God and neighbor, 125 years and counting...*

## The Word of God

### The Palm Gospel

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 Celebrant then says the following blessing*

**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 God 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.*

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

**People** Hosanna in the highest.

**Collect for Palm Sunday***Book of Common Prayer, p. 219*

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

**The First Lesson****Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Lector** 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** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Reflection****The Passion Narrative**

**Narrator** The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew. Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

**Pilate** "Are you the King of the Jews?"

**Narrator** Jesus said,

**Jesus** "You say so."

**Narrator** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

**Pilate** "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

**Narrator** 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,

**Pilate** "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

**Narrator** 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,

**Pilate's Wife** "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

**Narrator** 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,

**Pilate** "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

**Narrator** And they said,

**Congregation** "Barabbas."

**Narrator** Pilate said to them,

**Pilate** "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

**Narrator** All of them said,

**Congregation** "Let him be crucified!"

**Narrator** Then he asked,

**Pilate** "Why, what evil has he done?"

**Narrator** But they shouted all the more,

**Congregation** "Let him be crucified!"

**Narrator** 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,

**Pilate** "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

**Narrator** Then the people as a whole answered,

**Congregation** "His blood be on us and on our children!"

**Narrator** 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,

**Soldiers** "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**Narrator** 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.

*At the mention of Golgotha, the congregation should stand and remain standing for the remainder of the reading.*

**Narrator** 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,

**Bystanders** "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."

**Narrator** In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

**Chief Priests** "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.'"

**Narrator** 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,

**Jesus** "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

**Narrator** that is,

**Jesus** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Narrator** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

**Bystanders** "This man is calling for Elijah."

**Narrator** 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,

**Bystanders** "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

**Narrator** 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,

**Centurion** "Truly this man was God's Son!"

*A moment of silence is observed.*

### **Prayers of the People**

Lord Jesus, you were known as a teacher with extraordinary powers of healing. By word and touch the sick were made well. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, may we experience your healing touch.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Be with all leaders of the nations. Give them the wisdom to act with one accord for the well-being of all peoples.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Be with all medical professionals called to care for those affected by coronavirus, and for store clerks, delivery people, cleaners and others called to essential services, thereby putting themselves at risk of infection.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Heal those known and unknown who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through accessible testing and medical care.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Be with the family, friends and colleagues of those who are sick or dying. In the midst of anxiety and despair, surround them with your light and your love.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Receive into your Heavenly Kingdom those who have died from the coronavirus. May they be held in the hollow your hand and kept as the apple of our eye.

**By your spirit, heal us.**

Give us the will to persevere and the spirit of your healing love to cast out fear as you would have us do. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

*A prayer for healing to cast out fear, composed by the Rev. Gareth C. Evans,  
Rector of St. Barnabas, Irvington, NY; adapted by Nick Morris-Kliment*

*The people are invited to offer intercessions and petitions, either silently or aloud.*

*Together we pray in the words that Jesus taught us:*

**All** 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.

*We pray the following prayer together:*

**A General Thanksgiving**

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 836*

**All** Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you

also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

### **Prayer over the People**

**Officiant** Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your parish family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Hymn 458**

My song is love unknown

*Tune: Love Unknown*



WORSHIPPING † CARING † RESPONDING † GIVING

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Nicholas M. Morris-Kliment, Rector  
Pamela Goody, Director of Music Charles Raines, Associate Director of Music & Organist  
Lea Peterson, Director of Youth Choir Kenneth Cook, Facilities Manager  
Maryann Badejo, Bookkeeper Ali Heard, Parish Administrator  
Alicia Grey, Professional Childcare Provider

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

Stan Hitron, Warden Jeff Murphy, Warden Stefano Migliuolo, Treasurer  
David Carnahan, Clerk Members of the Vestry: Duncan Allen, Robert Begin, Jim Black,  
Denise DeGross, Janet Haines, Bob Keener, Ingrid Melvin, Michael Niden, Annie Russell,  
Patty Smith, Joe Sweeney, and Ginny Yerardi.  
Assistant Treasurers: Duncan Allen and Janet Haines

**REMOTE OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm**  
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