

PALM SUNDAY

LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Gospel

Mark 11:1-10

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem,
to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately as you enter
you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat;
untie it and bring it.
If any one says to you,
"Why are you doing this?" say,
"The Lord has need of it
and will send it back here immediately."'

And they went away,
and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street;
and they untied it.
And those who stood there said to them,
'What are you doing, untying the colt?'
And they told them what Jesus had said;
and they let them go.
And they brought the colt to Jesus,
and threw their garments on it;
and he sat upon it.
And many spread their garments on the road,
and others spread leafy branches
which they had cut from the fields.
And those who went before
and those who followed cried out,
'Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!
Hosanna in the highest!'

LITURGY OF THE PASSION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50.4–9a

The servant of the LORD said: 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?

SECOND READING Philipians 2.5–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philipians

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

PASSION Mark 15.1–41

1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

2Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.'

3Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

4Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.'

5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.

9Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?'

10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

12Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?'

13They shouted back, 'Crucify him!'

14Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!'

15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

18And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'

19They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

23And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

24And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

25It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

26The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.'

27And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

29Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!'

31In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself.'

32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

34At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.'

36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.'

37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

40There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

41These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.