

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday

Although blessed palms are not available for our celebration this year, other branches may be used in their place. In the past, when actual palms could not be obtained, forsythia, dogwood and other greenery have been used on Palm Sunday instead. Gather together the branches that you intend to use and have them available for the beginning of this liturgy at your home prayer area.

Invocation and Address

In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Since the beginning of Lent until now
we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather
together to herald with the whole Church
the beginning of the celebration
of our Lord's Paschal Mystery,
that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.
For it was to accomplish this mystery
that he entered his own city of Jerusalem.
Therefore, with all faith and devotion,
let us commemorate
the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation,
following in his footsteps,
so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross,
we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Opening Prayer Over the Branches

Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you, that we, who today hold high these branches to hail Christ in his triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

“Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me.

And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, ‘The master has need of them.’ Then he will send them at once.” This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Say to daughter Zion,

“Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them.

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road.

The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:
“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”

And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?”

And the crowds replied,
“This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us go forth in peace.

Antiphon

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest.

At this point you can process, with your branches, around your house while singing the traditional hymn “All Glory Laud and Honor.” Afterwards, you can leave some of the branches at your prayer space, or even put them on your front door to commemorate the Palm Sunday liturgy.

ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR

ST. THEODULPH



1-5. All glo-ry, laud, and hon - or To you, Re-deem-er King!



1-5. To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho-san-nas ring.



1. You are the King of Is - ra - el, And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels Are prais - ing you on high;
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore you went:
4. To you be - fore your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise:
5. Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



1. Now in the Lord's Name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
2. And mor - tals, joined with all - things Cre - a - ted, make re - ply.
3. Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore you we pre - sent.
4. To you, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
5. Great source of love and good - ness, Our Sav - ior and our King.

Text: 76 76 D; Theodulph of Orleans, ca. 760-821; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt., *Hyman!* Noted, 1854.
Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584-1635.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,

who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading**IS 50:4-7****A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

The Lord GOD has given me

a well-trained tongue,

that I might know how to speak to the weary

a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning

he opens my ear that I may hear;

and I have not rebelled,

have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,

my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;

my face I did not shield

from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,

therefore I am not disgraced;

I have set my face like flint,

knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

PS 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;

they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:

"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,

let him rescue him, if he loves him."

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me,

a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;

They have pierced my hands and my feet;

I can count all my bones.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,

and for my vesture they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, be not far from me;

O my help, hasten to aid me.

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:

"You who fear the LORD, praise him;

all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;

revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Reading 2

PHIL 2:6-11

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

coming in human likeness;

and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those 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 Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God

Verse Before The Gospel

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Speakers in the Passion Narrative are represented by these abbreviations:

†. Christ

N. Narrator

V. Voice

C. Crowd

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

N. One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

V. “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?”

N. They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said,

V. “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

N. He said,

†. “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’”

N. The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said,

†. “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

N. Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,

V. “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

N. He said in reply,

†. “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by

whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

N. Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

V. “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

N. He answered,

†. “You have said so.”

N. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,

†. “Take and eat; this is my body.”

N. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

†. “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.”

N. Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

†. “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;

but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.”

N. Peter said to him in reply,

V. “Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.”

N. Jesus said to him,

†. “Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

N. Peter said to him,

V. “Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.”

N. And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

†. “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

N. He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,

†. “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.”

N. He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

†. “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

N. When he returned to his disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

†. “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

N. Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,

†. “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!”

N. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,

†. “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

N. While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,

V. “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.”

N. Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,

V. “Hail, Rabbi!”

N. and he kissed him. Jesus answered him,

†. “Friend, do what you have come for.”

N. Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

†. "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?"

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

†. "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled."

N. Then all the disciples left Jesus and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated,

C. "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'"

N. The high priest rose and addressed him,

V. "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?"

N. But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

V. "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

N. Jesus said to him in reply,

†. "You have said so. But I tell you:

From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'"

N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

V. “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?”

N. They said in reply,

C. “He deserves to die!”

N. Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying,

C. “Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?”

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said,

C. “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N. But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,

V. “I do not know what you are talking about!”

N. As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,

C. “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”

N. Again he denied it with an oath,

V. “I do not know the man!”

N. A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

C. “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.”

N. At that Peter began to curse and to swear,

V. “I do not know the man.”

N. And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,

V. "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood."

N. They said,

C. "What is that to us? Look to it yourself."

N. Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

C. "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood."

N. After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet,

And they took the thirty pieces of silver,
the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites,
and they paid it out for the potter's field
just as the Lord had commanded me.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned Jesus,

V. "Are you the king of the Jews?"

N. Jesus said,

†. "You say so."

N. And when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,

V. "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

N. But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

V. “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him.” The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

V. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

N. They answered,

C. “Barabbas!”

N. Pilate said to them,

V. “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”

N. They all said,

C. “Let him be crucified!”

N. But he said,

V. “Why? What evil has he done?”

N. They only shouted the louder,

C. “Let him be crucified!”

N. When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

V. “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”

N. And the whole people said in reply,

C. “His blood be upon us and upon our children.”

N. Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

C. “Hail, King of the Jews!”

N. They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry Jesus' cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha—which means Place of the Skull—they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

N. Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

C. “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

N. The revolutionaries who were crucified with Jesus also kept abusing Jesus in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

†. “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

N. which means,

†. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

N. Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

C. “This one is calling for Elijah.”

N. Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,

C. “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

N. But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

(Here all kneel and pause for a short time for meditation on the Lord’s death).

N. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,

C. “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

N. There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

C. “Sir, we remember that this imposter while still alive said, ‘After three days I will be raised up.’ Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last imposture would be worse than the first.”

N. Pilate said to them,

V. “The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can.”

N. So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.

℟. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Following the Gospel, spend some time reflecting on the readings, or listen to a homily from a Catholic priest or deacon that has been recorded for this purpose. Fr. Longenecker has provided a homily for this Sunday. Here is a link on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/cKZhyzIImwA>

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

General Intercessions

Christ suffered and died so that we might become sons and daughters of God. As His children, let us now confidently offer our prayers to the Father of mercies.

For the Church: that those to be baptized or received into full communion this Easter may be kept safe from doubt, and steadfast against all temptation, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, hear our prayer

For those who are outside the faith, and those who persecute or slander the Lord and His Church: that they may come to know how much Christ suffered for them, and believe He is the Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

For our nation: that the saving death of Jesus may restore in all of us a deep reverence and respect for every human life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen away and no longer practice the faith, those who have denied the Lord, those who feel betrayed, or who feel forsaken or abandoned by God: that during this Holy Week they may hear God's call and return to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

for our church and school: that we may always walk with Jesus in the Way of the Cross, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

For the sick, the suffering, the chronically ill, those who endure any adversity, and all upon whom darkness has fallen, especially those suffering from the effects of the coronavirus: that through the merits of Christ's passion and death they may be healed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

for all the faithful departed: that God will welcome them into paradise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, keep before our eyes the suffering and death of your Son. May we find in Him strength for our journey, and victory over every evil. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Our Father

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.

Since receiving the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is not possible at this time, make a Spiritual Communion by using the following prayer:

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Closing Collect

We humbly beseech you, O Lord,
 that, just as through the death of your Son
 you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection
 you may lead us to where you call.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Almighty God bless us, the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



1. O Sa - cred Head sur-round - ed By crown of pierc - ing
 2. I see your strength and vig - or All fad - ing in the
 3. In this, your bit - ter pas - sion, Good Shep-herd, think of



thorn! O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re -
 strife, And death with cru - el rig - or, Be -
 me With your most sweet com - pas - sion, Un -



viled and put to scorn! The pow'r of death comes
 reav - ing you of life; O ag - o - ny and
 worth - y though I be: Be - neath your cross a -



o'er you, The glow of life de - cays, Yet
 dy - ing! O love to sin - ners free! Je -
 bid - ing For ev - er would I rest, In



an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze.
 sus, all grace sup - ply - ing, O turn your face on me.
 your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres - ence blest.

