

**Church of the Divine Love**

**Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**

**March 28, 2021 10:15 A.M.**

**Morning Prayer, Rite I**

*Please observe silence after altar candles are lit*

*All pages refer to The Book of Common Prayer*

**The Liturgy of the Palms** - see lectionary sheet insert or prayer book page 270

Opening Hymn #154 - All glory, laud and honor

Opening Sentences for Holy Week page 39

Confession of Sin page 41

The Invitatory and Psalter page 42

Venite page 44

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

The Psalm Appointed: **Psalm 31:9-16**

The Second Lesson: **Philippians 2:5-11**

Gradual Hymn #561 – Stand up, stand up, for Jesus

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO MARK**

The Sermon: The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Hymn #164 – Alone thou goest forth, O Lord

The Apostles Creed page 53

The Lord's Prayer page 54

The Suffrages page 55

The Collects page 56

Petitions and Thanksgivings of the People page 57

For Strength and Confidence page 459

#49 – For the Aged page 830

#47 – For Young Persons page 829

#62 – Prayer of St. Francis page 833

The General Thanksgiving page 58

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

page 59

Dismissal

page 59

Dismissal Hymn #168 – O sacred head sore wounded

### **Sermon's Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11; Mark 14: 1-15: 47 or Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Each year, we hear the account of Jesus in his final days or the final week on earth. A week that begins with great joy when Jesus is recognized as the Messiah, the One who the Jewish people prayed for and longed for through centuries and centuries, and finally he came. What a fulfillment!

And just now it all seemed that everything was being fulfilled, that the world would finally know that God had triumphed, he is arrested, put on trial, laughed at, ridiculed, found guilty. Guilty of claiming that he had come from God and he was indeed the Messiah. As is written in Philippians 2, Christ the Messiah, Jesus our Lord," 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 death, even death on a cross".

There is only one sentence that explains all of this and it is one that we can ruminate and think about forever and never penetrate its sweetness. And that is when we say that he came out of love, that he lived out of love, that he died out of love, and because he put love in the center of the world, it would never be removed. And the one last and fine hope is to follow him, Jesus of Nazareth, who loved, who loved us all.

At one point we stand and process together in praise and excitement, the Messiah is coming! And later, we stand in stunned shock, unable to comprehend the reality of what happens at the end of the story. Our service started those moments of heartfelt expectation placing us as part of a crowd who saw Jesus as the Messiah. People so certain of who Jesus was that they shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" These words mark the moment of entry of Jesus into Jerusalem proclaiming the deep desire of hope and salvation sought by the people. It is a story not of a traditional King who came to conquer; one who came on a prancing horse, in royal robes, surrounded by an army. Instead, the story we see and hear this morning is one of a lowly servant on a donkey, in the clothes of the humble and the poor – the clothing of the very people surrounding him. Jesus Christ comes to conquer by love, grace, mercy, and His own sacrifice for His people. His call is not for a kingdom of armies and riches, but of lowliness and servanthood. He comes to conquer not nations, but hearts and minds. His message is one of everlasting peace with God, not of the temporal peace we seek in this world.

After months of teaching around the countryside, after the many miracles he performed in front of people, after the crowds of five thousand have gone home. Jesus now with his disciples begin the journey into Jerusalem, into the mouth of the lion. The very place where he knows what is to happen

will happen. And despite his continued teachings, despite his warnings, those around him unknowingly celebrate this journey. So, we gather today with shouts of hope and celebration, and yet also tears of loss and confusion as the story continues. In hearing this story today, we stand witness with Jesus on this fateful day. Despite the uneasiness that lay in our hearts we can picture ourselves in the crowd. We can identify with those who stood there watching what was happening, afraid, numb, and frozen in place. Not stepping up to help because of the fear in our hearts. In hearing this story, we see the best and the worst that exists in our own lives, and all that we have to offer. We see ourselves, catching glimpses of the truth dimly. We also see ourselves fickle and quick to run when things get tough. We stand with those in the story, unable it seems to help others... and we can't seem to even help ourselves. We simply stand in silent watch.

And it is for this very reason that Jesus came and offered himself on the cross. Jesus offered himself because we can't always help ourselves. Too often, we see good and do the wrong thing. Too often, we turn away when we should help. We know right from wrong; we know the difference between good and evil, and yet when faced with the choice, often, we freeze. It's part of our very DNA – fight, flight or freeze. Yet, despite the result of his journey, Jesus proclaims there is hope. That there is hope in God. There is love in God. Jesus leads us to trust that all of this is in the hands of God. Not an understanding that God made this happen, but understanding that we live grounded, in the reality of an awareness that as humans, we exist in a dual world of light and darkness, of good and evil. And in the duality of these spaces, both good and bad simply exist as part of our human nature.

But when we hit those moments in our lives shift towards the darkness, like our story today, as Christians we are grounded in an understanding that God is there, present with us. And that's how God is God. Profoundly present as our lives shift and change. Always present in the light. Always present in the darkness. Visibly present in moments of goodness, and quietly patient and present in moments of evil. God is constantly there.... planting seeds of redemption and forgiveness, helping new life come into being.... offering us endless examples of resurrection. Moving us back into the light of his love and compassion, making it possible for our tears to turn into laughter and our weeping into moments of joy. And in our story this morning, it's in just one of these moments that one person saw something differently than the rest: The centurion. He moved from the darkness of the event into the light of understanding. He had stood watching everything that day. He was used to crucifixion because he helped carry out the orders. But as he watched Jesus' die, the centurion whose allegiance was to the emperor saw something in Jesus in those moments, and his allegiance shifted, saying to those around him, "Truly, this man was God's Son. "In the terrible events of that day, he experienced the wonder of God. He experienced God's hope for the world. He saw light in a terrible moment of darkness.

The Passion of Jesus is also an eloquent story of betrayal by a trusted friend and confidant. His passion tells us that suffering is not reserved for sinners but that the innocent also suffers. Christ did not die to make good works merely possible or to produce a half-hearted pursuit. He died to produce in us a passion for good deeds. And the Palm Sunday reminds us that despair and hope will travel together on this road. We will despair at the brokenness of our world and of our lives. And we will place our hope in the one who travels alongside us. The one who leads us onwards in this strange parade. "Hosanna!" we cry. "Save us!" we pray. And then, picking up our cloaks and our crosses, we make our way behind Jesus. Knowing that he already has traveled this road before. And he knows how to lead us in this parade as we move from pain to praise, from suffering to salvation, from death to life everlasting. I wish you a very fruitful Holy Week. **AMEN!**

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION:PALM SUNDAY

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

10:15 AM MORNING PRAYER  
(also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

MAUNDY THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

6:00 PM PROANAPHORA, RITE II

8:00 PM AA MEETING

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

HOLY SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

7:00 PM GREAT VIVGIL OF EASTER

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION:EASTER DAY

10:15 AM PROANAPHORA, RITE II  
(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

### **Prayer for Grace and Favor:**

**Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed.**

**We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us.**

**May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.**

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Barbara Curran	Marricco Family
Dina Palkowski	Margaret
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Bernie Walther
Nathan Treadwell	Jerry & Family
Tyler Gorman	Kim
Chris Dickson	Rachael
Michael Echevarria	Caesar
Warren	Bill Conklin
Michael & Family	Anthony Paribello
Martinisi Family	Edward Lent
Lois Kessler	Kate Jones
Kathleen	Del
Irene	Girard Bishop
Warren	

Children who are ill:

Franklin Tenesaca	Christopher and his family
Aidan	Ciara Berbeck
	Gabriel