

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION – PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 2, 2023

READINGS: ISAIAH 50:4-9A; PSALM 31:1-5, 16; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; The Passion According to Matthew

Organ: The Palms – Jean Baptiste-Fauré

Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death. Today we greet him as our King, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1-11

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The people hold their palms aloft while they are blessed.*

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. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ 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 forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace. **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

**All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King! To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. R.**

**The company of angels is praising thee on high; And we with all creation in chorus make reply. R.**

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;**

**Our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. R.**

**To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise; To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. R.**

**Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,**

**Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. R.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you. Let us pray.**

Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31. *The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated.*



Fa-ther, in-to your hands I com-mend my spir-it.

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. **R.** Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. **R.** Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me. **R.**

## A Reading from Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: Tract, Psalm 130, Tone II: Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, O LORD, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared. I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy; With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

*The responses before and after the Gospel are omitted, neither do any cross themselves, nor is incense used.*

*At the point when the congregation stands, they take the part of the crowd:*

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.

Pilate again said to them,

‘Which of the two, Jesus, or Jesus Barabbas, do you want me to release for you?’

Congregation: **Barabbas.**

‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’

Congregation: **Let him be crucified!**

Why, what evil has he done?’

Congregation (shouting): **Let him be crucified!**

## Prayers of the People

In the hope of salvation that this week brings, let us make our prayers to God, responding, "Hear our prayer".

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace; we pray to you, O Lord: R.

For candidates for baptism, that they may live into the promises that they will make; we pray to you, O Lord: R.

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth we pray to you, O Lord: R.

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away, we pray to you, O Lord: R.

For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal, we pray to you, O Lord: R.

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven, we pray to you, O Lord: R.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered, to the mercy and protection of God.

*Prayers are offered for special intentions; and the people are bidden to offer their prayers.*

## Holy Communion

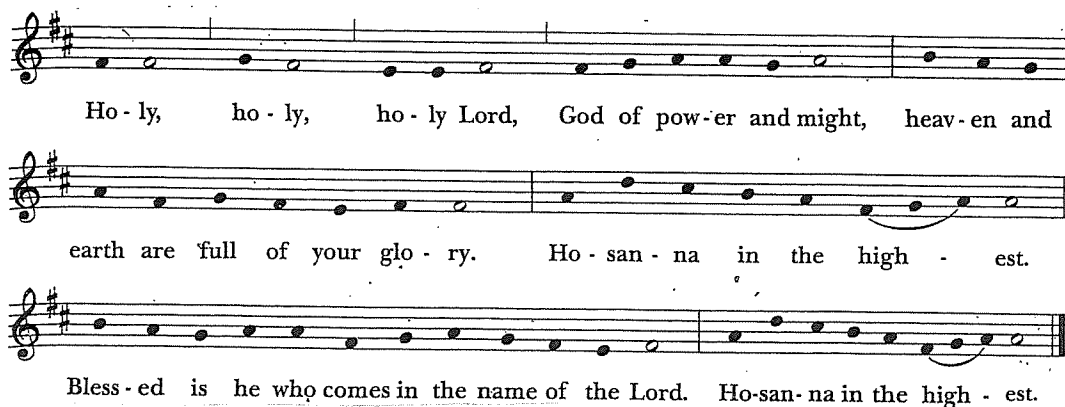
Choir: Ride On, King Jesus!

### Hymn 458, My Song is Love Unknown

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.  
After the breaking of the bread:*

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts with faith, and with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; the wine by either sipping from the chalice or dipping the bread in the wine. Kindly let the celebrant know if you would prefer a blessing instead and in addition to receiving Communion.*

*After all have received Communion, please stand:*

You asked for our hands that you might use them for your purpose.  
**We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.**

You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice.  
**We gave you a whisper, that we might not be accused.**

You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty.  
**We closed them, for we did not want to see.**

You asked for our lives that you might work through us.  
**We gave a only small part, that we might not get "too involved."**

Lord, forgive us for our calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for us,  
only in those places where it is safe for us, and only with those who make it easy for us.

**Lord forgive us, renew us, send us out as instruments of peace,  
that we might take seriously the meaning of your cross.**

Let us depart in peace. Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 172, Were You There When They Crucified My Lord**

*During the singing of the hymn the altar is stripped of all adornment.  
After the closing collect, the people depart in silence.*

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We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.  
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