

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION – PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 24, 2024

READINGS: ISAIAH 50:4-9A; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; PSALM 31:9-16; MARK 14:1-15:47

Organ: Prelude on "Evan", Gordon Young 1919-1998

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 – John 12:12-16

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?

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.

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed. R. I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street, they avoid me. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. R. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God." R. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. 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 22, Tone II: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the LORD, he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

*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 at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

## 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: Go to Dark Gethsemane

Music, Thomas Tertius Noble 1867-1953; Text, Hymn 171

### Hymn 458, vs. 1, 3-5, 7: My Song is Love Unknown, My Savior's Love To Me

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

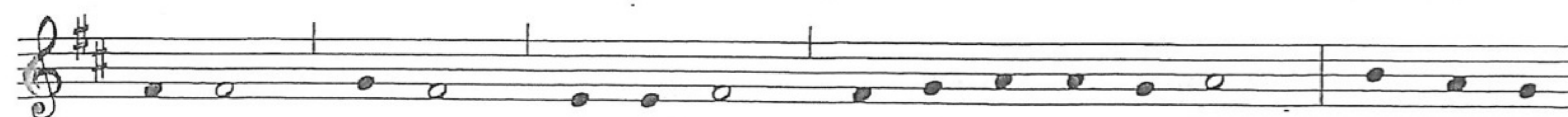
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:

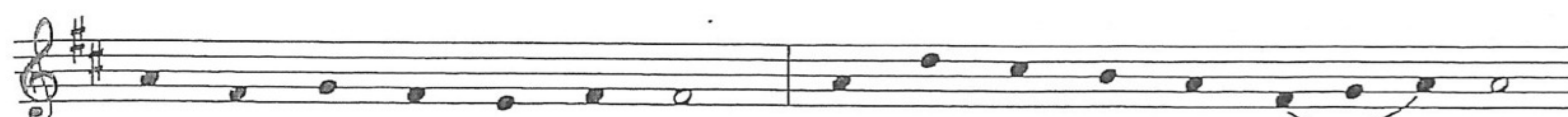
### The Holy Eucharist II

S 124

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and



earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*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.  
Feed on him in your hearts with faith, and be filled with thanks.

*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.*

Music during Communion: God So Loved The World  
Music, John Stainer 1840-1901; Text, John 3:16-17

*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 (insert): They Crucified My Lord, And He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word**

*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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