

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR B)

PALM GOSPEL

Mk 11.1-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now 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 in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no-one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone 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 a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing 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 cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards mankind sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isa 50.4-9

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?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 31



℣. My trust is in you, O Lord: you are my God. (*All repeat*)



Be gracious to ^l me O Lord,
for I am ^l in distress;
my eye is wast-^led from grief,
my soul and my ^l body also. ℣.

For my life is ^l spent with sorrow,
and my ^l years with sighing;

my strength fails me because | of my misery,
and my bones | waste away. *R.*

I am the scorn of | all my adversaries,
a reproach | to my neighbours,
an object of dread to | my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street | flee from me. *R.*

I have passed out of mind like one | who is
dead;
I have become like a | broken vessel.
I hear the whispering of the crowd, fear is |
all around;
they scheme together to take a-|way my life. *R.*

But as for me, I have trusted in | you O Lord.
I have said, 'You | are my God.
Rescue me from the hand | of my enemies,
and in your loving | kindness save me.' *R.*

SECOND READING

Php 2.5–11

A reading from the letter of Paul 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION

Php 2.8–9

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ humbled himself and became obedient
unto death, even death on a cross:
therefore God has highly exalted him, and
given him the name that is above every
name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

PASSION READING

Mk 14.32–15.39

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Mark.

They went to a place called Gethsemane. And
Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I
pray." And he took with him Peter and James
and John, and began to be greatly distressed
and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul
is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here
and watch." And going a little farther, he fell
on the ground and prayed that, if it were pos-
sible, the hour might pass from him. And he
said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for
you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what
I will, but what you will." And he came and
found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,
"Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch
one hour? Watch and pray that you may not
enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is
willing, but the flesh is weak." And again
he went away and prayed, saying the same
words. And again he came and found them
sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and
they did not know what to answer him. And
he came the third time and said to them, "Are
you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is
enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man
is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let
us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

And immediately, while he was still speak-
ing, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with
him a crowd with swords and clubs, from
the chief priests and the scribes and the el-
ders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign,
saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize
him and lead him away under guard." And
when he came, he went up to him at once and
said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. And they
laid hands on him and seized him. But one
of those who stood by drew his sword and
struck the servant of the high priest and cut
off his ear. And Jesus said to them, "Have you
come out as against a robber, with swords and
clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with
you in the temple teaching, and you did not
seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."
And they all left him and fled.

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the cock crowed. And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he

denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." And immediately the cock crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and

twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

(All keep silence awhile.)

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

This is the Passion of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, through the suffering of your only-begotten Son, may we be reconciled to you; so that we, who merit nothing by our deeds, may by your compassion receive the fruits of this one perfect sacrifice; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you, and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life. **Amen.**

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross. **Amen.**

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...