

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

PALM SUNDAY (YEAR C)

PALM GOSPEL

Lk 19.28–40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no-one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near – already on the way down the Mount of Olives – the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

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 50.4–9a

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

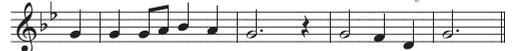
The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck 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 | me O Lord,
for I am | in distress;
my eye is wast-led from grief,
my soul and my | body also. ℣.

For my life is | spent with sorrow,
and my | years with sighing;
my strength fails me because | of my misery,
and my bones | waste away. ℣.

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 him-
self, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness. And being found in human
form, he humbled himself and became obe-
dient 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

Lk 22.14-23.56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

When the hour came, Jesus reclined at table,
and the apostles with him. And he said to
them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this
Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell
you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the
kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and
when he had given thanks he said, "Take this,
and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you
that from now on I will not drink of the fruit
of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
And he took bread, and when he had given
thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, say-
ing, "This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise
the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This
cup that is poured out for you is the new
covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand
of him who betrays me is with me on the
table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been
determined, but woe to that man by whom
he is betrayed!" And they began to question
one another, which of them it could be who
was going to do this.

A dispute also arose among them, as to
which of them was to be regarded as the
greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of
the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and
those in authority over them are called ben-
efactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the
greatest among you become as the youngest,
and the leader as one who serves. For who is
the greater, one who reclines at table or one
who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at
table? But I am among you as the one who
serves.

"You are those who have stayed with me
in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father
assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat
and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit
on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded
to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
but I have prayed for you that your faith may
not fail. And when you have turned again,

strengthen your brothers.” Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no money-bag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.” He said to them, “But now let the one who has a money-bag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfilment.” And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And he said to them, “It is enough.”

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?” And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus

said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” So they all said,

“Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

The whole company of the elders then arose and brought Jesus before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.”

But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” – a

man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This

is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

(All keep silence awhile.)

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no-one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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 ...