

*We gather in the church building.*

*Palms and a bowl of Holy Water are available at the altar.*

*If you wish, please take your palm/s, dip them in the water, and take them to your seat as the prelude music plays.*

**THE SUNDAY OF /THE PASSION:**

**PALM SUNDAY(B)**

**Sunday 28 March 2021**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES**

26238 N HWY 59, Wauconda, IL 60084

*www.holyapostleswauconda.net*

**LITURGY OF THE PALMS**

*Please take your palm/s as desired and proceed to your seat.*

*Please remain seated throughout the service, except for the final portion of the Passion Narrative, at which point you may stand as able/desired*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Presider:** The story of Palm Sunday tells of how people removed their cloaks and spread them out in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

***People: The cloak we wear every day to face the world is both the persona we wish to present, and our defense against the elements.***

**Presider:** As we come to worship may we be willing to lay down our defenses and disguises, at the feet of the One who sees us as we really are.

***People: And then, set free for worship, may we offer our praises with open hearts and lives.***

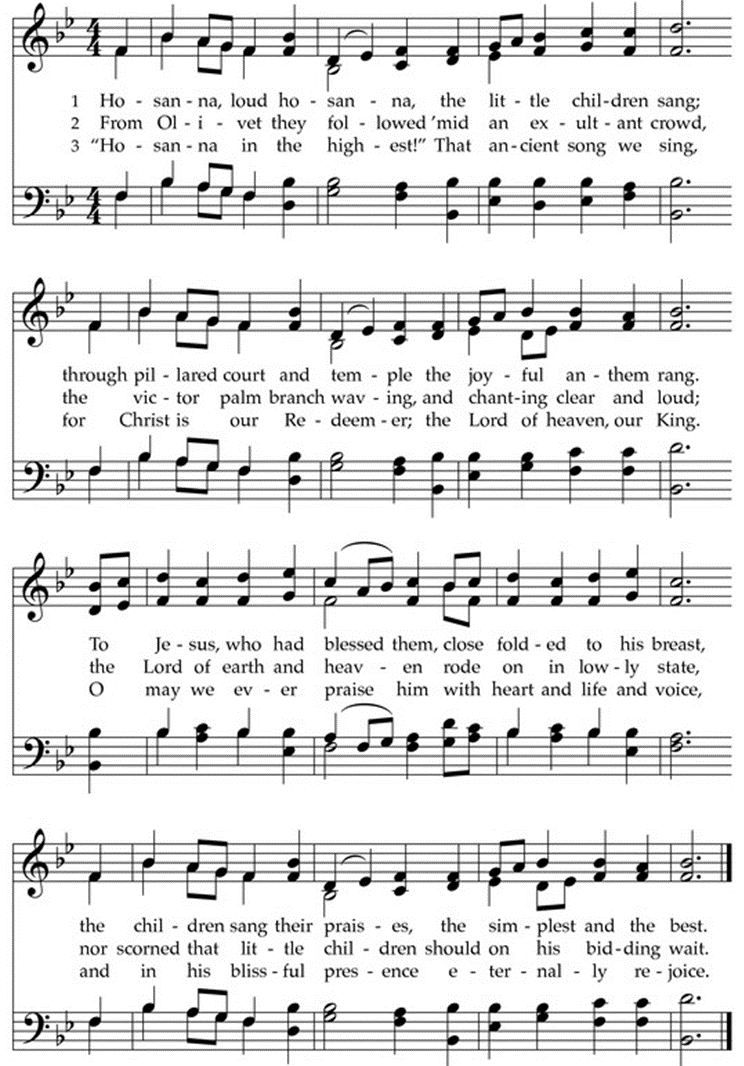
*(We read from the various biblical translations authorized by our Church. During Holy Week and through the month of April we will be reading from the New American Bible of 1970)*

**THE READING:**  Mark 11:1-11

**Reader:** 1When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. 3If anyone should say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’” 4So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. 5Some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. 7So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 9Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!” 11He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple area. He looked around at everything and, since it was already late, went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

**THE HYMN:**





**THE LITANY**  Litany based on Psalm 118:19-29

**Leader:** We thank you LORD God, for you alone are good,

***People: and your lovingkindness is everlasting.***

**Leader:** With the faithful of every time and place we declare,

***People: everlasting lovingkindness is yours alone.***

**Leader:** Open for me the gates of justice, so that I may enter and give thanks to the LORD.

***People: This is the gate of the LORD, where those who live justly may enter.***

**Leader:** I give thanks because you have answered me

***People: and became my rescuer.***

**Leader:** The stone which the builders scorned has become the first, the cornerstone.

***People: The LORD has brought this about, and it is astounding.***

**Leader:**  This is the day the LORD has made;

***People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

**Leader:** LORD, save us;

***People: let us enjoy success.***

**Leader:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

***People: We bless you from the house of the LORD.***

**Leader:** The LORD is God, and has given us light; join in celebratory procession up to the horns of the altar.

***People: You are my God, and I give you thanks; You are my God, and I praise you with great joy.***

**Leader:** Give thanks to the LORD, who alone is good,

***People: and whose lovingkindness is everlasting.***

**BLESSING OF THE PALMS**

**Presider:** Scripture tells us that Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt. But this ride was more than simple transportation from one place to another.

This ride was part parade – a public show, display, festival. A diversion in a dreary world to gladden hearts, bring smiles to careworn faces, encourage childlike glee.

It was part protest – an emphatic declaration of disapproval, expression of dissent, call for change. A warning to the current regime, notice of building resentment.

It was part procession - funeral procession. A ceremonial march, proceeding ahead in formal order. A solemn, prophetic witness to what lay ahead.

We ask God to bless our palms to all these purposes.

**Presider:** Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.

***People: May they remind us of the simple joys of living. May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.***

**Presider:** Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.

***People: May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past. May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.***

**Presider:** Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.

***People: May they remind us of the road that lies ahead. May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.***

**Presider:**  O God of all, we give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional. Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!"

***People: Amen.***

**Presider:**  Lord Jesus Christ, on the first Palm Sunday you entered the rebellious city where you were to die. Enter our hearts, we pray, and subdue them to yourself. And as your disciples blessed your coming and spread garments and branches along your way, make us ready to lay at your feet all that we have and are, that we too may bless your coming In the name of the Lord.

***People: Amen.***

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**OPENING HYMN**

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**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Let us pray. Lord of the swaying palms, the stones of earth and beasts of burden bear witness to your coming: lead us from the violence of empire and the collusion of crowds to a heart of flesh, a world re-made, and a new song for all creation; through Jesus Christ, the Crucified God.

***People: Amen.***

**FIRST READING**  Isaiah 50:4-9a

**Reader:** A reading from Isaiah: 4The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them. Morning after morning he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do; 5The Lord God opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away. 6I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard; My face I did not hide from insults and spitting. 7The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; Therefore I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. 8He who declares my innocence is near. Who will oppose me? Let us appear together. Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me. 9See, the Lord God is my help; who will declare me guilty? The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**RESPONSE** *(Please say together in unison)*  Psalm 31:9-16 (*10-17 in this translation*)

***10Be gracious to me, Lord, for I am in distress; affliction is wearing down my eyes, my throat and my insides.***

***11My life is worn out by sorrow, and my years by sighing. My strength fails in my affliction; my bones are wearing down.***

***12To all my foes I am a thing of scorn, and especially to my neighbors a horror to my friends. When they see me in public, they quickly shy away.***

***13I am forgotten, out of mind like the dead; I am like a worn-out tool.***

***14I hear the whispers of the crowd; terrors are all around me. They conspire together against me; they plot to take my life.***

***15But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.”***

***16My destiny is in your hands; rescue me from my enemies, from the hands of my pursuers.***

***17Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your mercy.***

**SECOND READING**  Philippians 2:5-11

**Reader:** A reading from the letter to the Philippians. 5Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, 6Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. 7Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, 8he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. 9Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK** Mark 14:1-15:47

**Reader:** 1The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to take place in two days’ time. So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to arrest him by treachery and put him to death. 2They said, “Not during the festival, for fear that there may be a riot among the people.” 3When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. 4There were some who were indignant. “Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? 5It could have been sold for more than three hundred days’ wages and the money given to the poor.” They were infuriated with her. 6Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. 7The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. 8She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. 9Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.” 10Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them. 11When they heard him they were pleased and promised to pay him money. Then he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

**Reader:** 12On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 13He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. 14Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”’ 15Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.” 16The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. 17When it was evening, he came with the Twelve. 18And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” 19They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, “Surely it is not I?” 20He said to them, “One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish. 21For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.” 22While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” 23Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shedfor many. 25Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” 26Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Reader:** 27Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed.’ 28But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.” 29Peter said to him, “Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be.” 30Then Jesus said to him, “Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times.” 31But he vehemently replied, “Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all spoke similarly. 32Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. 34Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch.” 35He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; 36he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” 37When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” 39Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. 40Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. 41He returned a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. 42Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand.” 43Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. 44His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely.” 45He came and immediately went over to him and said, “Rabbi.” And he kissed him. 46At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. 47One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his ear. 48Jesus said to them in reply, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me? 49Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the scriptures may be fulfilled.” 50And they all left him and fled. 51Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, 52but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.

**Reader:** 53They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. 54Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest’s courtyard and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire. 55The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. 56Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. 57Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, 58“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.’” 59Even so their testimony did not agree. 60The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying, “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?” 61But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him and said to him, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?” 62Then Jesus answered, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.’” 63At that the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further need have we of witnesses? 64You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as deserving to die. 65Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards greeted him with blows. 66While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest’s maids came along. 67Seeing Peter warming himself, she looked intently at him and said, “You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” 68But he denied it saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.” So he went out into the outer court. [Then the cock crowed.] 69The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” 70Once again he denied it. A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more, “Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean.” 71He began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this man about whom you are talking.” 72And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times.” He broke down and wept.

**Reader:** 1As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” 3The chief priests accused him of many things. 4Again Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” 5Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. 6Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. 7A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. 8The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. 9Pilate answered, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” 10For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate again said to them in reply, “Then what [do you want] me to do with [the man you call] the king of the Jews?” 13 They shouted again, “Crucify him.” 14Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” They only shouted the louder, “Crucify him.” 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. 16 The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. 17They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. 18They began to salute him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. 20And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. *(If you wish, you may stand for the remainder of the Passion Narrative)*

**Reader:** 21They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. 22They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull). 23They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. 25It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” 27With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. 29Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30save yourself by coming down from the cross.” 31Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. 33At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34And at three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 35Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “Look, he is calling Elijah.” 36One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.” 37Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. 39When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” 40There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. 41These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. 42When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the sabbath, 43Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. 45And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. 46Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. 47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses watched where he was laid. *(If you have stood, please be seated)*

**SERMON**  Rev. M. C. Gillette

*(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Leader:** Lord of the palm branches *and* the cross,

***People: hear our prayers.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for the Universal Church, its members, and its mission.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for our Nation and all in authority.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for the welfare of the world.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for the concerns of our local community.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, in p articular those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: *(we will keep a 10-second silence)*. Bless those whose hearts are filled with joy.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for those who suffer and those in any trouble, in particular those on our parish prayer list and those whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud: *(we will keep a 10-second silence)*. Bless those whose hearts are weighed down with worry and care.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Let us pray for the departed, whose names we raise up now, either silently or aloud *(we will keep a 10-second silence)*. Bless those who whose hearts are filled with sorrow.

***People: Lord, hear our prayer.***

*(The Presider adds this or another concluding Collect)* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ, Lord of the palm branches *and* the cross.

**THE PEACE** *(Please greet each other in the name of the Lord.)*

**Presider:** We, who were enemies of one another and of life, have been reconciled by the free gift of God; for while we were still at war, God made peace by the blood of the cross. God’s peace be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**Presider:** *(The Presider gives this or another Offertory sentence)* If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to that one, and then come and offer your gift.

**OFFERTORY HYMN**







*When it is time for communion, the Presider will invite you to come to the table at the altar rail one at a time.*

*You will be offered a (gluten free) wafer and an individual communion cup of wine, please allow the Presider to give them to you rather than reaching for one from the table*

*After you receive the bread and wine, please step away from the table, moving about halfway down the front pew before removing your mask briefly to consume the elements.*

*Please dispose of your communion cup in the waste basket at the edge of the aisle and replace your mask before returning to your seat.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**  Rite II, Prayer A

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

***People: We lift them to the Lord.***

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Presider:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every‑where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Now is the time to give you thanks, when rage and spite deface your image. You are the undying one whose gift of life never ceases; you journeyed with your people to break the bonds of slavery; you gave the law of justice to free them from lifeless idols; you called to prophets and judges to speak for the dispossessed. When empires ruled you gave your Beloved to systems which silenced what they could not control and wormed their way into our colluding hearts. Through his self-offering love, the wounds of torment became a healing spring, the place of execution a gateway into life. Therefore we stand together with the victims, the faithless, the treacherous, and the ones who only were “only following orders,” knowing we all depend on grace to sing of life renewed:

**SANCTUS**

***All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

**Presider:** Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

**↑**On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and When he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

**↑**After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Presider:** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

**∞**Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. **+**Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

**↑**All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN*.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**LORD’S PRAYER**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

**FRACTION**

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: have mercy on us.***

**Presider:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

***All: grant us peace.***

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

***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.***

**Presider:**  **↑**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 by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN** H1982, #313

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**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

***All: Lord, we thank you that in your passion you offer forgiveness and invite us to be with you where hunger is no more and death has no dominion: may the broken bread of life fracture our stony hearts for the sake of another world. Amen.***

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

**Presider:** May the cross be the sign in which we begin again to undo the cords of violence and the misery of exclusion, and proclaim a love without conditions; and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.

***People: Amen.***

**CLOSING HYMN** *(God’s Own Fool, Michael Card)*

Seems I've imagined Him all of my life As the wisest of all of mankind;  
But if God's Holy wisdom is foolish to men He must have seemed out of His mind.

For even His family said He was mad, And the priests said a demon's to blame;  
But God in the form of this angry young man Could not have seemed perfectly sane.

When we in our foolishness thought we were wise, He played the fool and He opened our eyes.  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong, He became helpless to show we were wrong.  
And so we follow God's own fool, For only the foolish can tell – Believe the unbelievable, And come be a fool as well.

So come lose your life for a carpenter's son, For a madman who died for a dream,  
And you'll have the faith His first followers had, And you'll feel the weight of the beam.  
So surrender the hunger to say you must know; Have the courage to say I believe.  
For the power of paradox opens your eyes, And blinds those who say they can see.

When we in our foolishness thought we were wise, He played the fool and He opened our eyes.  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong, He became helpless to show we were wrong.  
So we follow God's own Fool, For only the foolish can tell – Believe the unbelievable, And come be a fool as well.

**DISMISSAL**

**Presider:**  O Lord, you rode on.

***People: You rode over the cloaks and under the branches,***

***You rode through the shouts of acclamation and praise that you deserved but knew were superficial,***

***eyes always focused on the purpose for your coming.***

**Presider:** O Lord, you rode on.

***People: You rode towards the controversy and the cost,***

***You rode towards the curses and the cross,***

***Receiving the stripes you didn’t deserve, to give us a reward that we couldn’t earn.***

**Presider:** O Lord, you rode on.

***People: You rode through the tomb and the grave,***

***You rode through our time and space,***

***Ascending to a throne that will never decay,***

***A priesthood that will never pass away,***

***A life of love that will always remain.***

**Presider:**  O Lord, you rode on.

***People: As we leave this place, help us remember the journey you have taken.***

***As we go into the world, help us to walk in your way.***

**Presider:** Let us go in peace.

***People: Amen.***

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

**Cover Image:** Palm Sunday, Mark Jennings, https://fineartamerica.com/featured/palm-sunday-mark-jennings.html

**Call to Worship:**  Call to Worship for Palm Sunday from Ann Siddall at the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre, http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/

**Response:** Prayer of Praise based on Psalm 118:19-29, Jeff Shrowder on The Billabong website. <http://thebillabong.info/>

**Blessing of the Palms:**  The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, accessed at https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/03/blessing-of-palms.html

**Procession Collect:** Church of Scotland’s **Starters for Sunday** website.  <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

**Collect of the Day, Eucharistic Preface, Post-Communion Prayer, Blessing:**  Adapted from Passiontide Seasonal Materials in Prayers for an Inclusive Church (Steven Shakespeare)

**Prayers of the People:** Based on “A Prayer of Intercession for Palm/Passion Sunday”, the Rev. Grant Barclay, on the Church of Scotland’s Starters for Sunday website.

**Dismissal:** Based on “Opening Prayer for Palm Sunday,” Pastor Joe Welty, Broadway-First Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.