

# **BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Washington Street near Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866**



**THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION:  
PALM SUNDAY  
5 APRIL 2020**

# The Liturgy of Palm Sunday

---

*Please switch off all cellular telephones, Blackberries, and other electronic devices. Thank you.*

## The Entrance Rite

*The Liturgy begins as follows*

*Celebrant*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: During Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be make partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

*All sit.*

## **The First Lesson** – *A Reading from the Book of 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 backward. 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? (50:4-9a)

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      Thanks be to God.

## **Tract** – *In te, Domine, speravi*

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.

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.

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.  
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."

**The Second Lesson** – *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. (2:5-11)

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     Thanks be to God.

*All now stand and say*

**Gradual** – *Christus factus est*

Christ became obedient for us  
unto death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Wherefore God also hath highly  
exalted him, and hath given him a  
name which is above every name.

## **The Gospel of the Passion— Matthew 27:11-54**

*Narrator*            The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*The traditional responses before and after the Gospel are omitted at this liturgy. The congregation assumes the role of the Crowd.*

*Narrator*            Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

*Reader*              "Are you the King of the Jews?"

*Narrator*            Jesus said,

*Jesus*                "You say so."

*Narrator*            But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

*Reader*              "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

*Narrator*            But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

*Reader*              "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

*Narrator*            For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

*Reader*              "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

*Narrator* Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

*Reader* "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

*Narrator* And the crowd said,

*Crowd* "Barabbas."

*Narrator* Pilate said to them,

*Reader* "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

*Narrator* All of them said,

*Crowd* "Let him be crucified!"

*Narrator* Then Pilate asked,

*Reader* "Why, what evil has he done?"

*Narrator* But they shouted all the more,

*Crowd* "Let him be crucified!"

*Narrator* So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

*Reader* "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

*Narrator* Then the people as a whole answered,

*Crowd* "His blood be on us and on our children!"

*Narrator* So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

*Choir* "Hail, King of the Jews!"

*Narrator* They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. "Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

*Choir* "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

*Narrator* In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

*Choir* "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"

*Narrator* The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until

three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

*Jesus* "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"

*Narrator* that is,

*Jesus* "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

*Narrator* When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

*Choir* "This man is calling for Elijah."

*Narrator* At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

*Choir* "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

*Narrator* Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*All kneel. Silence is kept for a space. Then all stand with the Celebrant.*

*Narrator* At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

*Choir* "Truly this man was God's Son!"



## **The Nicene Creed**

### *Celebrant and People*

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Deacon* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*All kneel. The Deacon continues*

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son. Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet and to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes. Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in your kingdom. Give pardon and hope, healing and peace, to all who look death in the face.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other's care. Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross. Fill our relationships, and those of new families today, with mutual care and responsibility, and give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah. Open the eyes of those who do not know you to see in your Son the meaning of life and death.  
Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

Joseph of Arimathaea came to take your Son's body away. Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness to those who minister to them.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John, became part of your Church in Jerusalem. Bring into your Church today a varied company of people to walk with Christ in the way of his passion and to find their salvation in the victory of the cross.

Lord, hear us.

*Lord, graciously hear us.*

*The Celebrant concludes the Intercessions as follows*

Lord of the Church, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you in Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Celebrant and People*

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.

# The Concluding Rite

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All kneel. The Celebrant continues*

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

## **Prayer over the People**

*Deacon* Bow down before the Lord.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*All stand.*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

