

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 16, 2008

The Palm Sunday Liturgy recreates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as we wave our palms and make our procession into the church. This joyful mood soon changes to sober contemplation of our Lord's Passion at the Gospel. Thus, Holy Week begins.

THE PROCESSION WITH PALMS

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna to the Son of David!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Loving God - we come into your presence this day to give you thanks and praise for your steadfast love - that love shown to us through Jesus when he entered into Jerusalem to give his life for us. Help us remember, O God, as we worship you this day why it was that he suffered - and reconcile us to you and to each other as you have reconciled us to yourself by the cross. We ask this grace in the name of Jesus.

Amen

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

As they approached Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tied there which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone says anything to you say, 'The Lord needs it.', and he will send it immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet when he said; "Look, your King is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus directed them. They brought the colt and put their cloaks on it and Jesus sat on it. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting - "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven."

When Jesus entered Jerusalem the whole city was in a turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us go forth in peace,

In the name of the Lord.

The people enter the sanctuary with palms waving and remain standing for the hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor.

**To you, redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel
And David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming,
Our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***

**The company of angels
Are praising you on high;
Creation and all mortals
In chorus make reply. *Refrain***

**To you, before your Passion,
They sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exulted,
Our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**Their praises you accepted;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Great Author of all goodness,
Our good and gracious King. *Refrain***

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Read responsively)*

The Lord is God, and God has given us light. God has answered our prayer and become our salvation.

We join the festal procession with branches in hand. We rejoice at the coming of our King!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. We bless you and praise you, Lord, from the safety of this place.

But we confess; we will not go where you are going.

We admire you, but hesitate to follow you. We stand at the roadside, with hearts like stones.

Even they must cry out, but they are heavy with what they know; that when your adversaries gather, we will flee from you. When accusations mount, and insults shame you, our shame will be our turning back. Oh, the ways that we betray you. Our times are in your hand, O God. Have mercy on us, Lord. Deliver us.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

PASSION LITANY

Let us consider in silence the welcome that we give to Jesus.

We think, now O Christ, of how we receive you into our lives day by day.

..... (silent meditation)

We have sung of the welcome given to Jesus in Jerusalem. Yet Jesus knew from the first that he was going up to the city to die for his people.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

Hear the prophet Isaiah speak for the one who would suffer and die for us.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 50:4-9a

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Out of Love, He Broke the Bread

Harlan

PASSION LITANY

The heart of a person cannot be trusted. All are sinful. All are weak. Those who welcomed Jesus turned on him. One who believed He was the Son of God, denied him three times. One who followed him day by day betrayed him. Yet he came to us, knowing this - he came to us knowing who we are.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

Hear the record of his betrayal as he prayed in the garden.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM MATTHEW 26:45-54

PASSION LITANY

The record is clear - the wood of the manger in which the Christ child was laid was but a prelude for the wood upon which he would die. The humble stable in which he was born because there was no room for him in the inn, but a foreshadowing of the stranger's tomb in which he would be buried.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

Let us hear the record of how he became one of us - but we received him not; the story of how the innocent one was tried and condemned and killed - so that the guilty might live.

From the beginning of time his death was written upon the heart of God.

A READING FROM MATTHEW 27:11-54

This is the Word of the crucified and risen Christ.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Reverend Georgia N. King

***HYMN**

"O Sacred Head"

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Philippians 2:5-11)

Our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Jesus Paid It All

Broughton

DOXOLOGY

PASSION LITANY

Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." In the name of Jesus, we pray:

Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you.

You stood before Pilate, your life condemned, your word rejected, your innocence ignored:

Keep us from rejecting your word of truth and salvation.

You carried your cross on the wounded stripes of your back, for love of us and for all the world.

Help us to bear our cross, for love of you and for love of others.

The weight of your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall.

In our weakness, we turn to you for strength.

Although you suffered, you still reached out to care for your mother.

May our cross-bearing never keep us from caring for our families.

As you struggled to bear your cross to Calvary, a passerby was drafted to help you.

Make us as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need.

Others also took risks to comfort you.

Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.

Sin weighed heavily upon you as you stumbled along the way.

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins which make us fall.

Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep.

Make our suffering in life a share in your suffering.

The full burden of our sin crushed you mightily to the earth.

Do not forsake us in our falling, but bring us to repentance and faith.

Stripped and jeered, you endured humiliation without complaint.

Humble us in our work and daily lives.

Nailed to the cross, you took your place among the condemned.

Take your place beside us sinners, and bring us through faith to the Paradise of God.

When your sacrifice was complete, you handed your life to the Father, and he did not forsake you.

Keep us close to your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.

Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of your lifeless body.

Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.

In the tomb you were laid, but from the tomb you arose.

Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.

Loving Jesus, for the sake of your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed cleaned of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank you for your cross and for the depths of your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow you until you bring us into your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

***HYMN**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

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***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING RESPONSE

I Will Call Upon The Lord

I will call upon the Lord, I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies, So shall I be saved from my enemies. I will call upon the Lord, I will call upon the Lord. The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

POSTLUDE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Smith

Welcome to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!

Today, there will be a Potluck dinner after Worship.

Wednesday, March 19th, Choir practice will begin at 6:00.

Maundy Thursday services will be held Thursday, March 20th, beginning at 7:00pm.

Good Friday services will be held Friday, March 21st, beginning at 7:00pm.

Flowers have been placed in the Sanctuary this morning by Aleyene Watkins in honor of Bob's Birthday.

Helping Hands contribution for March is crackers or hand soap.

The Reverend Georgia N. King, Pastor, Organist-Choir Director- Mrs. Pat Petty

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun. March 23 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class – Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

OFFICE HOURS

Dara Garlington, Secretary Monday to Friday. 9:00-12:00

The office will be closed March 19th, due to a Doctor appointment, also March 21st due to Good Friday. .

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