

**WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR PALM SUNDAY YEAR A**  
Sunday, April 5, 2020

**PRELUDE** Valet will ich dir geben - *on the theme of the Overture to “Saul” by Handel*  
(based on the hymn “All Glory Laud and Honor”) Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

**WELCOME**

**ACCLAMATION**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>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!”

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**BLESSING OF “PALMS”**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless those who follow him, proclaiming his name.  
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,  
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,  
we enter into life with you;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **PROCESSION**

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“All Glory Laud and Honor”

*In lieu of our usual physical procession, we will show  
a video of members “processing” near their homes. Enjoy the faces of these pilgrims!*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **INTRODUCTION TO READINGS**

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

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church’s understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
    and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;**  
**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my  
acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**  
**I am as useless as a | broken pot. R**  
<sup>13</sup>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.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**  
**I have said, “You | are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**  
**save me in your | steadfast love.” R**

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

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup>Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup>For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you

want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup>Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup>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, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup>Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup>So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>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, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup>They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup>then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup>Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

<sup>38</sup>Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup>Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, “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.” <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup>“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.” <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” <sup>44</sup>The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup>From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup>And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” <sup>48</sup>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. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup>Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup>After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>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, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

#338

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun -shine than the sun -shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869  
Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## **CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
    creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
    who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
    born of the virgin Mary,  
    suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
    was crucified, died, and was buried;  
    he descended to the dead.  
    On the third day he rose again;  
    he ascended into heaven,  
    he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
    the holy catholic church,  
    the communion of saints,  
    the forgiveness of sins,  
    the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **OFFERING**

*Use this time to make a gift online, or write a check to be mailed in,  
    to sustain the ministries of the Church.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response: ...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Share peace with those around you or online, or write down the name of someone you will text or call later to check up on them and spread Christ's peace to them.*

### MOMENTS FOR MISSION

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\pm$  give you peace.  
**Amen.**

#### SENDING SONG

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

#347

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol-low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;  
 3 Cal-v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.  
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

*Continued on next page...*

turn not from his griefs a-way; learn from Je-sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je-sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav-ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*No postlude – you are encouraged to reflect in silence  
on the journey of Holy Week that has just begun.*