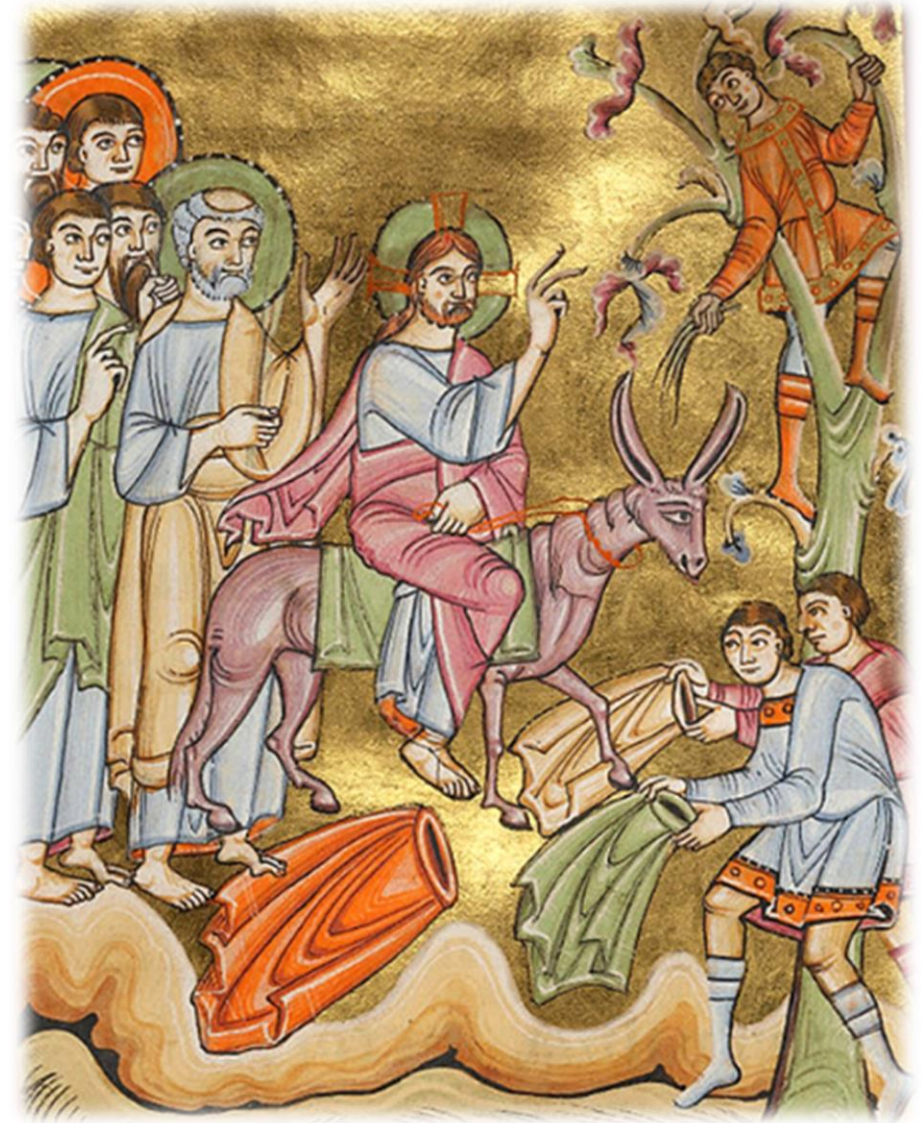


St. Luke's Table

Palm/Passion Sunday

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Philippians 2.8–9



Entry into Jerusalem
Getty Center, Los Angeles, California

Welcome and Good Morning!

A Service of the Word for the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Ministry Team

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Ordinand:	Jerry Cavanagh
Musician:	Peter Grant
Scripture Readers:	Lyda Miller, Congregation
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Liturgy of the Palms, Book of Alternative Services

Offertory Intro, Connections Worship Companion

Opening Hymn



Gathering Leafy Branches, World Chronicle,
Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA

The Symbols of Lent: The Palms

We place at the cross today the palm branches that welcomed Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem. The crowd shouting, “Hosanna!” expected to be saved by a great hero. They wanted him to overthrow the Romans. Instead, he overturned their concept of greatness.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us. We cry for you to deliver us from our suffering and destroy our enemies. You come among us as a Suffering Servant, silently bearing the iniquity of us all. In the shadow of your cross we cry, “Have mercy on us.”

Palm Sunday is about worship. But the crowd turned it into a political parade. The heroes of our world ride in pomp and power. We hesitate to follow leaders who ride on donkeys, and pour out themselves, even unto death.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. We turn to our own way of comfort and power. You show us what it means to offer one's self and bear the transgressions of others. In the shadow of your cross we cry, "Have mercy on us."

Let us pray together,

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: You redeem the very suffering we despise! We look at Jesus, and we look at ourselves, and we confess the great difference. Deliver us from our self-serving fear; conform us to his loving servanthood. Burn our palm branches into ash. We thank you that through the resurrection your grace abundantly pardons and transforms us! Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Palms are placed
at the cross

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

Hosanna in the highest.



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Liturgy of the Palms

Dear Friends in Christ,
during Lent we have been preparing
for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.
On this day our Lord Jesus Christ
entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.

The people welcomed him with palms
and shouts of praise, but the path before him
led to self-giving, suffering, and death.
Today we greet him as our King,
although we know his crown is thorns
and his throne a cross.

We follow him this week from the glory of the palms
to the glory of the resurrection
by way of the dark road of suffering and death.
United with him in his suffering on the cross,
may we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

**Assist us mercifully with your help,
Lord God of our salvation,
that we may enter with joy
into the celebration of those mighty acts
whereby you give us life and immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gospel of Christ according to Luke 19:28-40



Palm Sunday: Even the Stones,
Cara B Hochhalter
J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California

After he (Jesus) had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethpage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘the Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are

you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,
“Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I
tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest.

May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Palms are distributed.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ.

Please remain in your seats.

Almighty God,
whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory,
may we, walking in the way of the cross,
find it is for us the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Collect of the Day

**Almighty God,
your Son Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph,
seated on a donkey,
welcomed by peasants and slaves,
working people and outcasts;
grant that we too may view our triumphs with humility,**

**celebrate our joys with those in need,
and remember always that the true victory is yours.
In the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you,
one God, world without end. Amen.**

Psalm 118, 1-2, 19-29, (alternating verses)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
"His mercy endures for ever."**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

**"This is the gate of the Lord;
he who is righteous may enter."**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

**On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hosannah, Lord, hosannah!
Lord, send us now success.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

God is the Lord; he has shined upon us;
form a procession with branches up to the
horns of the altar.

**"You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.

**Holy and mighty God, your Son's triumph
over sin and death has opened to us
the gate of eternal life.**

**Purify our hearts that we may follow
where he has gone and share
in the radiance of his glory.**

We ask this for the sake of our risen Lord. Amen.

Gradual Hymn



Last Supper, Hans Holbein
Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland

The Good News:
Gospel of Christ
according to
Luke 22:14 – 23:56

A Dramatic Reading



Peter's Denial, Frank Wesley

NARRATOR: When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

JESUS: “I have eagerly 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.”

NARRATOR: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

JESUS: “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.”

NARRATOR: Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

JESUS: “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

NARRATOR: And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

JESUS: “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”

NARRATOR: Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

JESUS: “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom so that you may eat and drink at my

table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

NARRATOR: And he said to him,

PETER: “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!”

NARRATOR: Jesus said,

JESUS: “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack for anything?”

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: “No, not a thing.”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘and he was counted among the lawless;’ and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.”

NARRATOR: They said,

DISCIPLES: “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: “It is enough.”

NARRATOR: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

JESUS: “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

NARRATOR: Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed,

JESUS: “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.”

NARRATOR: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

JESUS: “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

NARRATOR: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus

said to him,

JESUS: “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?”

NARRATOR: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

DISCIPLES: “Lord, should we strike with the sword?”

NARRATOR: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

JESUS: “No more of this!”

NARRATOR: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple

police, and the elders who had come for him,

JESUS: “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 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!”

NARRATOR: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

SERVANT 1: “This man also was with him.”

NARRATOR: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: “Woman, I do not know him.”

NARRATOR: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

ACCUSER 1: “You also are one of them.”

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: “Man, I am not!”

NARRATOR: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

ACCUSER 2: “Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

NARRATOR: But Peter said,

PETER: “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!”

NARRATOR: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word 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 began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

SOLDIERS: “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?”

NARRATOR: They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

ASSEMBLY: “If you are the Messiah, tell us.”

NARRATOR: he replied,

JESUS: “If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

NARRATOR: All of the asked,

ASSEMBLY: “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

NARRATOR: He said to them,

JESUS: “You say that I am.”

NARRATOR: Then they said,

ASSEMBLY: “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it from his own lips!”

NARRATOR: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

ASSEMBLY: “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

NARRATOR: Then Pilate asked him.

PILATE: “Are you the king of the Jews?”

JESUS: “You say so.”

NARRATOR: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

PILATE: “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.”

NARRATOR: But they were insistent and said,

ASSEMBLY: He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilea where he began even to this place.”

NARRATOR: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt

and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day, Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders. And the people, and said to them,

PILATE: “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

ASSEMBLY: “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”

NARRATOR: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for

Murder). Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting,

ASSEMBLY: “Crucify, crucify him!”

NARRATOR: A third time he said to them,

PILATE: “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”

NARRATOR: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who

was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women, who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

JESUS: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely 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 this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

(At the mention of the place called the Skull, all should stand as able.)

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called the Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said.

JESUS: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

NARRATOR: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching; but the leaders scoffed at him saying,

ASSEMBLY: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

NARRATOR: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying,

SOLDIERS: “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

NARRATOR: There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

CRIMINAL 1: “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

NARRATOR: But the other rebuked him saying,

CRIMINAL 2: “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

NARRATOR: Then he said,

CRIMINAL 2: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

NARRATOR: He replied,

JESUS: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

JESUS: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

NARRATOR: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

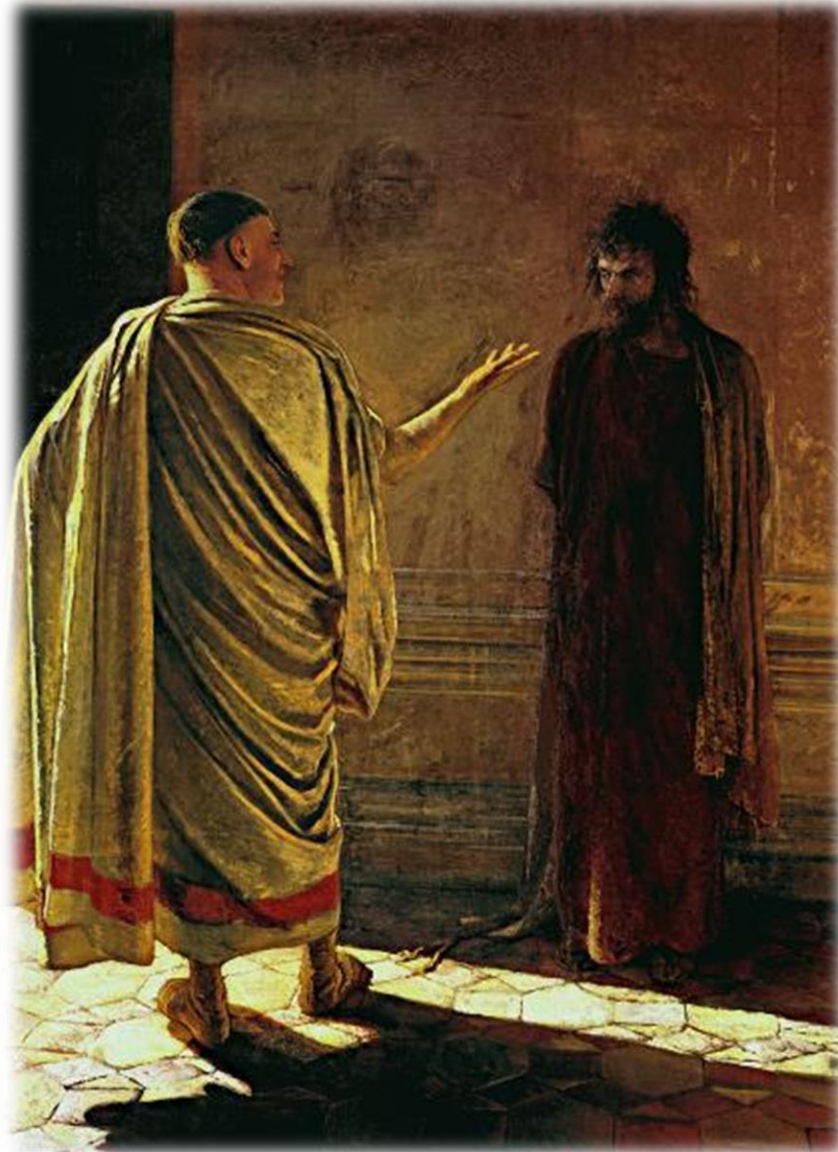
CENTURION: “Certainly this man was innocent.”

NARRATOR: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home,

beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilea, stood at a distance, watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women

who had come with him from Galilea followed, and they 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.

Reflection



"What is Truth?" Christ and Pilate, Nikolaï Nikolaevich
Tetryakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
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.**

Offertory

Jesus asked his disciples:

When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals,
did you lack anything?

They responded:

No, not a thing.

The act of giving disrupts narratives of scarcity. As we
give our offerings, let us do so as people of abundance.

Offertory hymn



Girl with Palm Sunday Fronds, Kanutas Ruseckas

Prayers of the People



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem -- John August Swanson

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord
be always with you.

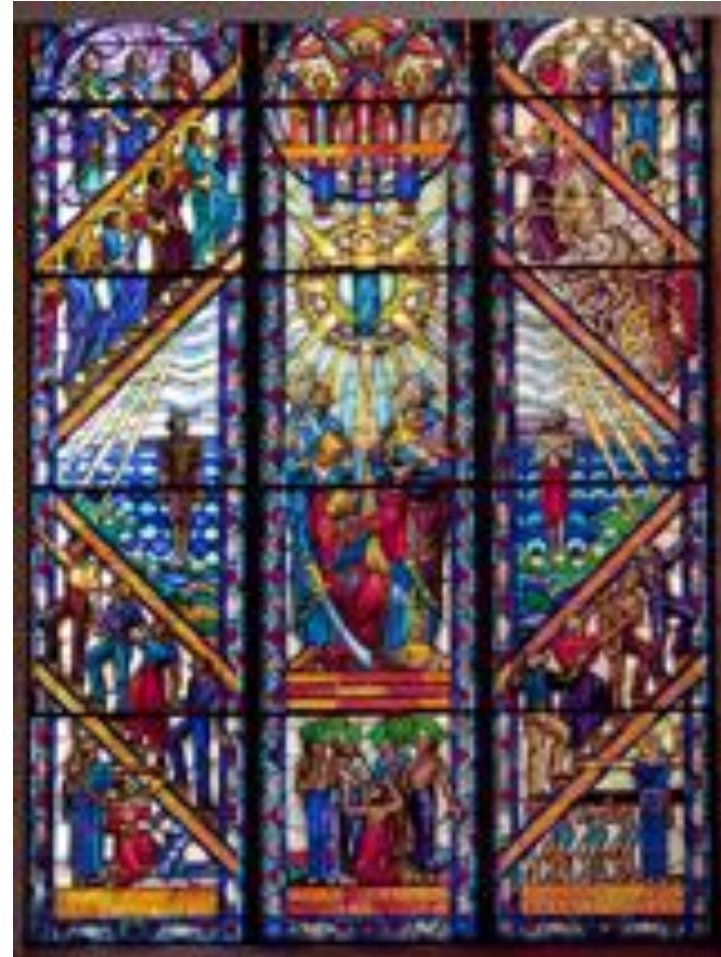
And also with you.

Announcements



Lyre, Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California

Closing Hymn



Singing Windows, J & R Lamb Studios
University Chapel, Tuskegee, Alabama

Sending Out by the Rev. Laurie Omstead

We have begun this Holy Week
with the waving of palm branches,
and as we continue the journey to the cross,
we leave behind the images of a saviour
that we long for,
and cling to,

but which the events of this holy week contradict:
our longing for a saviour who will rescue us,
our claim of a saviour who is on our side,
our belief in a gentle saviour, meek and mild,
our desire for a saviour who will rule to the popular vote,
our fear of a saviour who is unapproachable,
disinterested and removed.

Go into this Holy Week with only one certainty:
we are in the company of God
who pursues us and saves us with relentless love.

Go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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