The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 28, 2010

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter & St. Paul in the City & Episcopal Diocese of Washington
Today’s worship begins with glad shouts of “Hosanna!” and moves to shouts of “Crucify him!” We journey with Jesus as he is welcomed in triumph upon entering Jerusalem and then is utterly rejected and crucified at Golgotha outside the gates of the city.

We enter Holy Week today with prayers, music, and ceremonies that would be recognized by ancient pilgrims to Jerusalem walking the way of the cross. This is not merely the story of Jerusalem two thousand years ago—it is our story, too. We have a part in this great act by which God redeems the whole of creation through Jesus Christ. Today we are part of the passion of Christ and through it we see the reality of God’s saving action in our lives.

Hosanna means “save us.” The jarring intersection of triumph and defeat encompassed in this worship shows us that when the power of self and the powers of this world fail utterly it is in this humble, frail Jesus of Nazareth that the power of God is revealed. We shout hosanna not knowing what it will bring. It brings the cross, at once a terrible death and a throne of mercy for us. We are the children whom God so loved that the only Son was sent to live and die as one of us. There is no moment of defeat, of alienation, of brokenness, or even of death itself that can keep God from us. We depart today in silence, with this hope of love claiming us.

The palms throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The palms at the high altar are given in memory of Bishop James deWolf Perry, on the anniversary of his installation as Presiding Bishop 1930; the palms at the altar in St. Mary’s Chapel are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson; and the palms at the altar in War Memorial Chapel are given in memory of Edwin H.B. Pratt.
THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 735
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Valet will ich dir geben, BWV 736
J. S. Bach

The Liturgy of the Palms

The people stand.

INTROIT

Hosanna to the Son of David
Thomas Weelkes (1576–1623)

Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord; thou that sittest in the highest heavens, Hosanna in excelsis Deo!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider  Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord:
People  Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.
Presider  Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
People  Amen.


Gospeller  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When he had come near Bethphage 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 that 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.”

Gospeller  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people raise their palm branches to be blessed.

THE BLESSING OF THE BRANCHES

Presider  The Lord be with you.
People  And also with you.
Presider  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People  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. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, 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 for ever. Amen.

Presider  Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
People  Hosanna in the highest.
The Procession of the Palms

Gospeller  Let us go forth in peace;
People    In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people stand, waving palm branches and singing, as the procession moves through the Cathedral.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

All glory, laud, and honor

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!

to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
2 The company of angels is praising thee on high;
3 The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
4 To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring.

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One.
2 and we with all creation in chorus make reply.
3 our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.
4 to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
5 who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King.
The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for the Sunday of the Passion

Presider  The Lord be with you.
People  And also with you.
Presider  Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may follow his example of patient endurance, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People  Amen.

The people are seated for the lesson and psalm.

The Lesson

Philippians 2:5–11

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.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

Silence follows the lesson.

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Sung by the choir.  Plainsong

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.
The people stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE

My song is love unknown

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love
He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow, but
Sometimes they strew his way, and his strong praises sing, re-
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: ne-

to the loveless shown that they might love-ly be. O
men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know. But
sounding all the day hosannas to their King, Then
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This

who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend.
"Crucify!" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.
is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

The people are seated.
Narrator  Jesus 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,

Disciple  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  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  You also are one of them.

Narrator  But Peter said,

Peter  I am not!

Narrator  Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

Accuser  Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

Narrator  But Peter said,

Peter  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,

Jesus  Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.

Narrator  And he went out and wept bitterly.
Narrator  Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Soldiers  Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?
Narrator  They kept heaping many other insults on him. When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

Elders  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 them asked,

Elders  Are you, then, the Son of God?
Narrator  He said to them,

Jesus  You say that I am.
Narrator  Then they said,

Elders  What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!

Narrator  The assembly of elders rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

Elders  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?
Narrator  He answered,

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,

Elders  He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee 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 the 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.

Narrator  Then they all shouted out together,

Crowd  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,

Crowd  Crucify, crucify him!
A third time he said to them,

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.

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,

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?

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,

Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

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

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

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

If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

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,

Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

But the other rebuked him, saying,

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.

Then he said,

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

He replied,

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

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,

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

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

Certainly this man was innocent.

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 Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.
The people remain standing and reflect quietly on the Passion Narrative.

**THE SERMON**

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Dean Lloyd

The people stand for the prayers.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each intercession,

*Intercessor*  We pray to you, O God,
*People*  Our strength and our Redeemer.

**CONCULING COLLECT**

*Presider* Holy God, you have established your rule over the human heart not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ; receive our prayers as we seek to follow the way of the cross. Move us by your Spirit to proclaim Christ Jesus with our lips and praise him with our lives.

*All*  Amen.

**THE PEACE**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*People*  And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace.

**The Holy Communion**

**THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

The people remain seated and an offering is received to support the Cathedral’s work of sharing God’s love with the world.

**ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY**

*Ride on*  Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry, thy humble beast pursues his road with palms and scattered garments strowed. Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die, O Christ thy triumph now begin o’er captive death and conquered sin. Ride on, ride on in majesty! The winged squadrons of the sky look down with sad and wond’ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice. Ride on, ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh; the Father on his sapphire throne awaits his own anointed Son. Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy power and reign.

*Henry Milman*
All stand to sing and remain standing through the Eucharistic prayer.

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

*Let thy Blood in mercy poured*

*Jesus, meine Zuversicht*

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**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.
The presider offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ, and in response all sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

The people stand as the presider gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's self-offering on the cross and prays over the bread and wine.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Presider 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 God, 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.
All 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 realm.
Presider 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.
All AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All 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.
INVITATION

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Eucharist.

To receive communion, come to a communion station at the direction of the ushers. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you.

Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion station and cross your arms over your chest. This will alert the priest of your desire to be blessed.

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The people are seated.
MOTET AT THE COMMUNION  
*God so loved the world*  
John Stainer (1840–1901)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; But that the world through him might be saved.  

*John 3:16–17*

MOTET AT THE COMMUNION  
*In monte Oliveti*  
Marc Antonio Ingegneri (1545–1592)

In monte Oliveti oravit ad Patrem: Pater, si fieri potest transeat a me calix iste. Spiritus quidem promptus est, caro autem infirma: fiat voluntas tua. Vigilæte et orate, ut non intretis in tentationem.  

On the Mount of Olives he prayed to his father:  
Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me.  
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak: your will be done. Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.  

*Matthew 26:39, 41*

The people stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION  
*Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow*  

Cross of Jesus

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER  
*Said by all.*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
THE SOLEMN PRAYER

The presider prays the solemn prayer which according to ancient custom replaces the final blessing during Lent. The people respond Amen.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING

O sacred head, sore wounded

Sung by all.

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

All depart quietly.
PERMISSIONS