



Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

9 April 2017

Sentence At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, 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.

Philippians 2.10-11

Collect.

Lord, your love is broken open among the cheering crowds
and traitor's coins, deserting friends and hands washed clean,
the mockery of power, and the baying mob:
as we follow your way of passion, give us faith to bring our weak
and divided hearts to the foot of the cross
and the door of the guarded tomb
that they might be opened, astonished and healed;
through Jesus Christ, who carries the weight of the world.

Amen.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

This passage was written during or after the exile in Babylon. It stresses the obedience of the Lord's Servant and the early church took it as foreshadowing the suffering of the Messiah.

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?

Isaiah 50.409a

Reader Hear the word of the Lord
ALL **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 31 9-18 APBA page 250

A prayer for trust in God in times of opposition, suffering and rejection.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

In this key passage in the Christian scriptures, most likely an early hymn of the Church, Paul sets before us the self-emptying or “kenosis” of Jesus Christ, even to death, for which God awarded him the name “Lord” which is above all other names.

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.

Philippians 2.5-11

Reader May your word live in us
ALL **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

The gospel, Matthew 26.14-27.66, is read without acclamation

Please sit during this long reading should you need to.

More than a third of Matthew's gospel is given over to the deed, words and events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. The meaning of Jesus' identity as the Son of Man is central to Matthew's story but its origins are obscure and found in the hope that a 'son of man' possessing God-given authority would arrive in Israel. The early Christians identified this mysterious figure from their prophetic writings with Jesus. Matthew portrays Jesus as the one in whom the scriptures find their fulfilment or 'embodiment'. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are in profound agreement with the testimony of scripture that God brings life from death and freedom from all that enslaves humanity.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

O God, the source of our passion,
who took upon you our unprotected flesh,
kindle in us your anger and desire;
that in suffering we may not be consumed,
but hold fast to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ, whose feet were caressed with perfume and a woman's hair;
you humbly took basin and towel and washed the feet of your friends.
Wash us also in your tenderness as we touch one another;
that embracing your service freely,
we may accept no other bondage in your name. **Amen.**

THE CHURCH'S LECTIONS (readings) FOR HOLY WEEK

Eucharist each evening at 7.30pm

Monday

Isaiah 42.1-9 Psalm 36.5-11 Hebrews 9.11-15 John 12. 1-11

Tuesday

Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 71.1-14 1 Cor. 1.18-31 John 12.20-36

Wednesday

Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12.1-3 John 13.21-32

Holy (Maundy) Thursday 8pm

NO 10.15am Eucharist this day

Exodus 12.1-14 Psalm 116.1-2,11-18 1 Cor 11.23-26 Jn 13.1-17,31b-35

Good Friday 10am

Isaiah 52.13-53.12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10.16,25 John 18.1-19,42

Easter Eve Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter 8pm

Gen 1.1-2.4a Ex. 14.10-31; 15.20-21 Isa. 55.1-11 Ezek. 36.24-28

Rom. 6.3-11 Psalm 114 Hymn to the Risen Christ Matt 28.1-10

Easter Day during the day

8am & 10am Acts 10.34-43 Hymn to the Risen Christ

Colossians 3.1-4 Matthew 28.1-10

5pm Luke 24. 13-49

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Margaret Elliott Robinson, Margaret Ellen Lambie, Robert Kither, Lawrence Krome, Lucy Beaumont Slobom, Sue Angliss, Maxwell Robinson, Arthur Carter, Lilla White, Marjorie Powell, Corrie Mark, Donald Eric Bowman, Guy Sexton, Franz Schnelle
whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the Week

This week's commemorations are displaced by observance of the days of Holy Week, over which no other day takes precedence.

A reflection on Palm Sunday's pomp and ceremony.

When one of Israel's famous kings Jehu, was proclaimed king in defiance of the existing one, Jehu's followers spread their cloaks under his feet as a sign of loyalty (2 Kings 9.13). They also cut branches to make a celebratory procession for him. The crowds welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem seem to have expected he would be the same kind of king, the sort of king they wanted. They even sang royal hymns and chants to greet Jesus. But Jesus knew he had not come to be enthroned like David, Jehu or Judas Maccabaeus, but to be killed. For Jesus, the 'triumphal entry' had a different meaning to that of the cheering crowds.

People notoriously turn to God when there is something they need. It is a bit like only learning to use the telephone because you need to call an ambulance. But the good news, which looks bad at first, is that God will answer our cries and meet our deepest needs, but not as we might expect. Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem is a lesson for us in the mismatch between what we think we need and what God gives us. To learn that is another step in holy wisdom and humility, and a growing in genuine Christian faith.

