



Order of Service for April 5, 2020
The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday
10:00 am
Officiating: The Rev'd Fergus Tyson
Preaching: The Rev'd Dr. Bob Mummery



'GOOD NEWS'

Though he was in the form of God, [he] did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. . . Philipians 2:6-7

It is difficult for us to believe that our God is a God who came in the unspectacular form of a servant, who entered Jerusalem on an ass, and who was killed as a common criminal. And it is even more difficult to believe that a few unsophisticated fishermen brought God's good news to the world. (The Selfless Way of Christ, by Henri J.M. Nouwen, p. 55-56)

One of the strongest proofs for the truth of the Christian story is how historically implausible it is. The God of the universe becomes a human being, but not a king or a mighty warrior, just a servant teacher. This God gathered a group of disciples, who were variously thickheaded, cowardly or just plain clueless. This God was arrested and executed as a criminal. And then his followers started a movement that proclaimed him God. There is no way this could have affected history the way it has unless it were all true!

As we enter Holy Week with our Lord, let us take stock of the ways in which we remain thickheaded, cowardly and clueless in our relationship with God. It's not too late to draw fruit from this Lent!

Heavenly Father, let me always be aware of the wonderful ways you draw me towards yourself! Amen.

From Suffering to Salvation: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen, p. 40



A Service of the Word

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Liturgy of the Palms

Opening Praise and Introduction (screens)

The Holy Gospel

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "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." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 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 he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

MATTHEW 21:1-11

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Opening Hymn: All Glory Laud and Honour (screens)

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (screens)

Blessing of the Palm Crosses (screens)

Collect for the Passion (screens)

The Proclamation of the Word

The Passion of the Lord According to Matthew

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus went with the disciples to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. The high priest said to Jesus, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I

do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. The governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. 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?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 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." He released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus,

the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 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?" Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. 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!"

SELECTED VERSES FROM MATTHEW 26-27

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Meditation

Confession & Absolution (screens)

The Peace (screens)

Offertory (screens)

Prayer over the Gifts (screens)

The Prayers of the People

Palm Sunday Litany (screens)

National Prayer for Canada in Response to COVID-19 (screens)

The Lord's Prayer (screens)

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: "Ride On Ride On in Majesty" (screens)

Dismissal (screens)

Prayers for this Week

(bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week)

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we **pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle: In the Anglican Church we pray for **Archbishop Anne Germond, the people and clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario** and in the Lutheran Church we pray for the dean, council, and congregations of the Manitoba East Area of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the parish of **St. George, Calgary, and for their clergy Clara King and Derek Hoskin (Hon.)** We also pray for all children and young families .

We lift to you our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, we pray for the safety and well-being of all members of our Parish, and pledge to stay connected with one another and face the challenges of COVID-19 together; we remember our clergy, **Fergus Tyson, Cyril Haynes, Norman Knowles, Bob Mummery, and their families; and we especially uphold all who are infirm, immune-compromised, or on the front lines in this battle.**

We pray for our foster child Desta Keweti.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you **the family of Joy (Abby's sister), the family of Barrin, Antony, Judy, the family of John, Crystal (niece of Rosemarie), Bill & Pat, for the family of Bob, the family of Carmen, John, the family of Bonnie, Gerald, Molly (mother of Sian), the family of Simon, Stephen, Dwight (Dorothy-Ann's cousin), Jo, the family of Brenda (relative of the Collers), the family of Joan (mother of Richard), Tracy, Julia, the Herritt family in their bereavement , Gael, Verna and her family, , Michael, Barb, Jen, Patrick, the family of Helen, Eleanor, Lena, Dorothy, the family of Mauricia (mother of Ella), Max & Rebecca, Anne Lowry, Dozy's & Obie's family, Kathy, Kevin, Richard (friend of Anne), Terry, Jerrod, Lynne (sister of Sheila), the family of Ann & Peter, Melissa and her family (friends of Jenn), Dennis, Audrey, Mike, Val, Martin, the family of Gwladys, Sheila, Melissa and her family, Adrianna, Peggy, Bob and Joanne, the family of Douglas, Michelle, Ian, the family of Nina, Pat, Christine, Rick (brother of Sheila), Gwen, Jacqueline, Ellen, Monika (mother of Dennis), Kathy (daughter of Bob & Joanne), Trudy (cousin of Iona), Len, Andrea's and Andrew's family, Margaret, and Marlene.**

We pray for containment of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide, and full restoration of health for all those who are ill with it.

We pray for all struggling economically, and all those affected by fires, floods, storms and other natural disasters. We pray for us all to stand together in hard times.

We pray for peace and justice in our own country and for an end to violence throughout the world. In particular, we pray for those whose lives have been torn apart by the violence; safe haven for all who have fled their homes; repentance for the perpetrators of evil; and for protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

We thank you for your healing touch which sustains us every day, for all the many healings that have taken place in our parish, and for your unending mercy as you hear our prayers.