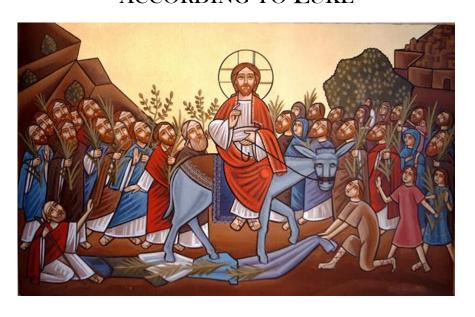
PALM SUNDAY

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

and

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE



-- Year C -



The Liturgy of the Palms

The congregation gathers at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession.

The palm branches to be carried in the procession will be distributed after the prayer of blessing.

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Response Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant 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. Amen.

Deacon A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near-already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works 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!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (Luke 19:29-40, Year C)

The Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Response And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

Response We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. Response It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Response Hosanna in the highest!

The Palms are now distributed.

Celebrant Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he

suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, all hold branches in hand, singing:

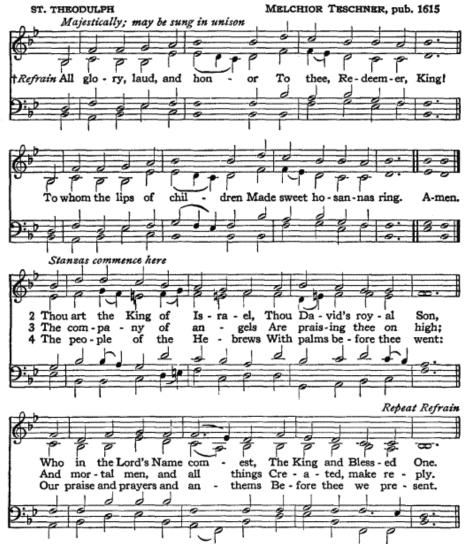
Contemporary: "Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna,

King of Kings, Lord of Lords, you are God!"

Traditional Hymn: "All glory, laud, and honor" (Music on following page)

Passiontide

For Palm Sunday 76, 76, D.



5 To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise:
To thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

Refrain

6 Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring, Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King. Refrain

ST. THEODULPH, c. 820; Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1854

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

Luke 22:39-23:56

Narrator: Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives;

and the disciples followed him. When he came to the place, he said

to them,

Jesus: "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Narrator: And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down

and prayed, saying,

Jesus: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; Nevertheless,

not my will, but yours, be done."

Narrator: And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening

him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them

sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

Jesus: "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into

temptation."

Narrator: While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called

Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to

kiss him, but Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Narrator: And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they

said,

Disciples: "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

Narrator: And one of them struck the servant 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 and the officers of the temple and elders, who had come out

against him,

Jesus: "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?"

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, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing

him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said,

Servant Girl: "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 saw him and said,

Man #1: "You also are one of them."

Narrator: But Peter said,

Peter: "Man, I am not!"

Narrator: And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying,

Man #2: "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean."

Narrator: But Peter said.

Peter: "Man, I do not know what you are talking about."

Narrator: And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and

wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

Soldiers: "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?"

Narrator: And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

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

Congregation: "If you are the Christ, tell us."

Narrator: But he said to them,,

Jesus: "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you, you will not

answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right

hand of the power of God."

Narrator: So they all said,

Congregation: "Are you the Son of God, then?"

Narrator: And he said to them,

Jesus: "You say that I am."

Narrator: Then they said,

Congregation: "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves

from his own lips."

Narrator: Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before

Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

Congregation: "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give

tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Narrator: And Pilate asked him,

Pilate: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Narrator: And he answered him,

Jesus: "You have said so."

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

Pilate: "I find no guilt in this man."

Narrator: But they were urgent, saying,

Congregation: "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee

even to this place."

Narrator: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean.

And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the

people, and said to them,

Pilate: "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people.

And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done

by him. I will therefore punish and release him."

Narrator: But they all cried out together,

Congregation: "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!"

Narrator: This was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection

started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more,

desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting,

Congregation: "Crucify, crucify him!"

Narrator: A third time he said to them,

Pilate: "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt

deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him."

Narrator: But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be

crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he

handed Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him.

But turning to them Jesus said,

Jesus: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for

yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are 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 these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is

dry?"

Narrator: Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death

with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one

on his left. And Jesus said,

Jesus: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do."

Narrator: And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by,

watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

Congregation: "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his

Chosen One!"

Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour

wine and saying,

Congregation: "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 railed at him, saying,

Criminal #1: "Are you not the Christ? 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 justly, for we are receiving the due

reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

Narrator: And he said,

Criminal #2: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus: And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me

in paradise."

Narrator: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the

whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a

loud voice, said,

Jesus: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"

Narrator: And having said this he breathed his last.

- A SILENCE IS OBSERVED -

Narrator: Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God,

saying,

Centurion: "Certainly this man was innocent!"

Narrator: And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they

saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from

Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid it in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and 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.

The Passion narrative concludes in silence.

PLEASE LEAVE THIS BOOKLET WITH THE USHERS AFTER THE SERVICE.

