



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

March 28, 2010
Passion Sunday/Palm Sunday
Ed and Lou Brandt

Liturgy of the Palms

RCL: Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

LM: Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion

RCL: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14–23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

LM: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14–23:56 or 23:1-49

A door to Holy Week, Palm Sunday provides an abundance of biblical lessons. Let the Spirit guide you to those scriptural treasures to enrich your personal and faith community's study and worship as you prepare to celebrate our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

Liturgy of the Palms

“What kind of ruler is this?” is one of Luke's prominent questions, especially in his account of Jesus' riding into Jerusalem. In the same chapter 19, Jesus deals with economic concerns and welcomes an outsider. This contextual material includes Zacchaeus, the parable of the servants' wages, and Jesus' weeping over the Holy City and cleaning money-changing from the Temple. What kind of ruler is Jesus? Judging by his action here, he is one who welcomes outcasts, shares true religion and profound faith in God while being the Prince of Peace. Hardly a monarch surrounded by earthly wealth and power!

The people who prepare and participate in the triumphal entry into Jerusalem acquire donkeys, shout praise with their voices, and lay down their coats. What is our Lord's call to servanthood today and what responses to his entry into our lives await us? No doubt more mundane than mighty.

Rich images of Psalm 118 are quoted in both the Old and New Testaments—“steadfast love, gates of righteousness, chief cornerstone, day of the Lord,” and more. Cite specific ways you experience Christ's coming into our lives today to bring equity and peace for all, realizing that his realm will reach its fullness on the last day when he returns in gentleness as ruler of all creation.



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Liturgy of the Passion

In human situations it helps to suffer with others. And yet Jesus, bearing the sin the world, suffers alone. The Old Testament passages—Isaiah 50, Psalm 30, and Psalm 22—help us appreciate the utter forsakenness of our Lord’s passion and death, as well as his devotion to, and dependence on, God for help and restoration. These words can be comforting to those today who bear wounds of hunger, loneliness, illness, and oppression. Don’t forget those called to serve compassionately with them, such as relief workers, medical professionals, journalists, educators, pastors, and community organizers.

The hymn of Philippians 2 urges us to exalt the Lord of all, who dies a slave on a cross. We know persons who embody Christ simply by being themselves, living day-to-day lives.

Luke’s passion account includes a group of unexpected participants: Simon of Cyrene, who carries Jesus’ cross; women who accompany and grieve; a criminal who confesses Christ’s lordship; a Roman centurion who praises God; Jesus’ disciples, many of whom are women who are present through the entire ordeal; Joseph of Arimathea, who buries our Lord; and the women who acquire spices and ointments to apply to his body. This variety of accompanying mourners proclaims the immensity and breadth of God’s mercy. Today we also stand with Jesus, who is present in the world’s suffering ones.

A segment of the PBS *NewsHour* with Jim Lehrer told of lawyers in Malawi helping orphans and widows who have lost homes and land after the death of their parents and spouses because of HIV/AIDS. This legal counsel allows people to have their own place to live and to sustain their own livelihood. This is but one example of reaching out to the suffering Christ present in sisters and brothers across the globe.

Children’s Time

Ask the children to think about a parade they’ve been to. When important people ride in a parade, they are usually on elaborate floats or shiny cars. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, there were no floats or marching bands, just Jesus on a donkey. Yet people knew he was different and special. He taught acceptance, forgiveness, and compassion by his example. Jesus was the healer, and he was love, not just for the wealthy but for everyone. When some of the religious leaders wanted Jesus to quiet the people who had come to honor him, he told them that if the people were quiet, even the stones of the earth would shout out praise.



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The parades we watch are fun and colorful, but when the last band or float passes by, the parade is over. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem with singing and the waving of palm branches, that was just beginning a celebration that continues today. We are now part of that parade.

Musical Suggestions

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken—*Banquet of Praise* 110, 111

Do, Lord, Remember Me— *Banquet of Praise* 121

Here Am I— *Banquet of Praise* 211

He Is King of Kings— *Banquet of Praise* 220

Arise, O King of Grace, Arise— *Banquet of Praise* 152

Jesu Came and Laid Down His Life for Us (The Poor Are Served)—*Banquet of Praise*
172

When Jesus Faced His Darkest Night— *Banquet of Praise* 135

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