

Sunday 3/29/26
Palm Sunday

WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)

To open our Mass, we hear an excerpt from the book *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, written by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg.

“Holy Week and the journey of Lent are about an alternative procession and an alternative journey. The alternative procession is what we see on Palm Sunday, an anti-imperial and nonviolent procession. Now as then, that procession leads to a capital city, an imperial center, and a place of collaboration between religion and violence. Now as then, the alternative journey is the path of personal transformation that leads to journeying with the risen Jesus, just as it did for these followers on the road to Emmaus.

“Holy Week, as the annual remembrance of Jesus’ last week, presents us with the always relevant questions: Which journey are we on? Which procession are we in?”

Let us begin our prayer with the blessing of the Palms.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

And God said, I will put my law in them,
And so we come to worship in search of the Author,
And I will write it on their hearts;
Opening our hearts,
And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Finding communion.

Twenty centuries past, what city has not heard of your coming?
From Beijing to Berlin, from Jerusalem to Johannesburg,
from New York to New Delhi surely the word has spread that you've come in peace,
not violence to enrich, renew, transform our lives and bring us to shalom?
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!

Twenty centuries past, what city has not heard of your church?
From Catholic, Orthodox, Uniting or Anglican, Evangelical, Progressive or
Pentecostal surely the message of acceptance, healing, confidence in your royal
advent, has been passed on through faithful living?
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!

Twenty centuries past, what city has not rejected you?
From penthouse to tenement, from factory to leisure center, from theme park to
concert hall, surely the news is that this life is for taking, not giving and what stands
in the way of this lifestyle must now be removed?
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!

Twenty centuries past, what city does the Christ seek to enter?
From leafy suburb to shanty town, from housing estate to downtown flat, from salon
to slum, surely the sign of the church free from pride, united in deed, must be the
welcome Christ longs for as he enters our city?
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
Hosanna in the highest!

Trish: All things are made new by Christ. All things are restored in Christ. The fullness of life in Christ is found in forgiving others, finding healing and reconciliation, and working for justice, knowing that death does not have the final word. The opportunity for new life is now, not at death. Eternity is now. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us all to everlasting life. **Amen.**

As we enter our time of prayer, let us embrace the fullness of life in Christ, knowing that we are forgiven, restored, and loved, and offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I will take the children of Israel from among the nations
to which they have come,
and gather them from all sides to bring them back to their land. I
will make them one nation upon the land,
in the mountains of Israel,
and there shall be one prince for them all.
Never again shall they be two nations,
and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.
No longer shall they defile themselves with their idols,
their abominations, and all their transgressions.
I will deliver them from all their sins of apostasy,
and cleanse them so that they may be my people and
I may be their God.

My servant David shall be prince over them,
and there shall be one shepherd for them all;
they shall live by my statutes and carefully observe my decrees. They
shall live on the land that I gave to my servant Jacob,
the land where their fathers lived; they
shall live on it forever,
they, and their children, and their children's children, with
my servant David their prince forever.

I will make with them a covenant of peace;
it shall be an everlasting covenant with them,
and I will multiply them, and put my sanctuary among them forever. My
dwelling shall be with them;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Thus the nations shall know that it is I, the LORD,
who make Israel holy,
when my sanctuary shall be set up among them forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to
be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking
the form of a slave, coming in
human likeness;
and found human in appearance, he
humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death, even
death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which
is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every
knee should bend,
of those 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The Lord is With You

And also with you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem.

As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the Mount of Olives,

he sent two of his disciples.

He said, "Go into the village opposite you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat.

Untie it and bring it here.

And if anyone should ask you,

'Why are you untying it?' you will answer,

'The Master has need of it.'"

So those who had been sent went off

and found everything just as he had told them.

And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them,

"Why are you untying this colt?"

They answered, "The Master has need of it."

So they brought it to Jesus,

threw their cloaks over the colt, and

helped Jesus to mount.

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road;

and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives,

the whole multitude of his disciples

began to praise God aloud with joy for

all the mighty deeds they had seen.

They proclaimed:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

"Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL: (COMMENTATOR)

O Lord our God, we bring You the needs of our world, broken by division and suspicion, by hatred and war. We bring You the needs of our land, the hungry and homeless, the wounded and despairing, the threatened and fearful. We bring you the needs of ourselves and our loved ones, seeking Your peace and healing, Your wisdom and protection.

For whom and for what would we like to pray today? You are invited to unmute your mike. We would very much like to pray with you. Our response is, “Lord Hear Our Prayer.”

When community prayer has slowed or stopped:

Hear us, O God, and come to us, In compassion and love rescue and restore us, And make us a people in whom Your gentle reign is seen. We present our needs through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

And now we lay down the palm branches. And with them, we lay down our belief that there is another way for you to be God. As the last echo of the final hosanna fades, so does our hope that this journey can end in any other way. The week stretches ahead glory-less and pain-full. Whether we walk with all faith or none, we look towards the cross, knowing it is both the most human and most divine of all journeys. We travel the road with courage, with love, and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith into this holiest of weeks. **Amen.**