



The Episcopal
Church of the Ascension

Your Village Church since 1885

*Our Vision: we serve Christ today
for those who will come to know and serve Christ tomorrow.*

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Eight o'clock in the morning

The hymn is found in the blue Hymnal, while all other page numbers refer to the red Prayer Book.

The Liturgy for this day begins on Prayer Book page 270.

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who cometh in the Name of the Lord

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Lesson Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Blessing over the Branches *Prayer Book page 271*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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.**

The Palms are blessed and then distributed to the people.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day *Prayer Book page 168*

The Celebrant says to the people The Lord be with you *People* **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

BCP page 357

The people sit. Two Lessons, as appointed, are read. After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord. People **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (50:4-9a)

The Gradual Psalm 31:9-16 In te, Domine, speravi

BCP page 623

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; * when they see me in the street they avoid me.
12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; * I am as useless as a broken pot.
13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. * I have said, "You are my God.
15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your loving-kindness save me."

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (2:5-11)

The congregation is seated and remains so during the first portion of the Passion narrative.

All stand at the verse telling of the arrival at the place of The Skull.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The Homily

The Very Rev'd Canon Michael Bamberger

The Prayers of the People

BCP page 328

The Deacon or other person appointed says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and

godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, the Presiding Bishop; for John, the bishop of Los Angeles; and Michael and Ed our clergy, that they may both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We pray for those parishioners celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially, _____. We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Joe our President, Gavin our Governor, the Congress and Legislature, and the Courts that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. We remember and pray for other blessings, we now name silently or aloud.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray for _____ and for any other needs or concerns we name silently or aloud.

For the larger church, we pray for _____. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for _____. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer on this Sunday we pray for _____.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, _____, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, the patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The People stand for **The Peace**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP page 333

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. *People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP page 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Then may be said

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The following Fraction Anthem may be said

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **grant us thy peace.**

The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. *(And may add)* Take them in remembrance that Christ died and lives for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward and receive of this sacrament of Christ's Presence or receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing or not receive from the Cup, please indicate by crossing your arms before you. Gluten-free hosts are available – please inform the priest distributing communion if you would prefer to receive in this kind. Ascension has returned to receiving Communion in both kinds. Our parishioners have choices. One option is to continue to receive in one kind. A second option is to receive from the common cup. A third option will be for individuals and households to receive in a small chalice, which will have a small amount of consecrated wine poured into it from the common cruet. Folks may choose to bring from home a glass or cup that holds special significance or to use a small glass which we have available. Please note – the practice of Intinction (where a parishioner dips the bread in the wine) is not permitted under diocesan guidelines.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

For those viewing on Facebook Live, here is the prayer for spiritual Communion –

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood — given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

(From ELCA Bishop Ray Erwin)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The people then stand and sing The Final Hymn No. 435

KING'S WESTON

The Celebrant may bless the people. The People are dismissed with these or similar words.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **People Thanks be to God.**

The Voluntary:

Once the procession has retired from the church, the People are invited to remain for the Voluntary or kneel in meditation.

Please join us in the Parish Hall for coffee hour.

Announcements for The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

ASCENSION WELCOMES CHILDREN – There are toys in the “Prayground” towards the back of the church and in the side chapel for small children in need of distraction, and a rocking chair for those in need of consolation. And sometimes parents and kids need to feel free to step outside and take a breather! All children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

IF YOU ARE VISITING US TODAY, we welcome you in the Name of Christ and invite all persons to share in the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood. Holy Baptism is the way we acknowledge our fellowship and communion in Christ’s Church. If you are interested in being baptized or talking about your baptism, please speak to the Rector – Canon Bamberger.

THE TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER GROUP will gather together at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26th at Corfu Restaurant, located at 48 West Sierra Madre Blvd., here in town. Please RSVP to Ray Smith at ray@madre.net or Ray’s cell phone # 626-233-1035. All are welcome.

BETWEEN THE MASSES - The adult discussion group is not meeting today or on Easter Sunday.

THE WATCH AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE. The vigil will continue from the conclusion of Maundy Thursday Mass until 10:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the Watch will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden.

ST. ANNE’S ALTAR GUILD IS COLLECTING FOR EASTER FLOWERS: Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to the Church of the Ascension and turned today for donations to be noted in the Easter bulletin.

SIMILARLY, OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Envelopes are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Checks should be made out to The Church of the Ascension (with the notation “Music Fund”) and turned in today for donations to be noted in the Easter bulletin.

Holy Week Service Schedule

Wednesday in Holy Week	Tenebrae	7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday	Mass	7:00 a.m. and 7 p.m.
	<i>The Watch at the Altar of Repose begins after the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Maundy Thursday.</i>	
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross - Outdoors	12 noon
	Liturgy	7:00 p.m.
Easter	The Great Vigil of Easter and Solemn Mass	6:00 a.m.
	Easter Brunch	8:00 a.m.
	Festival High Mass	10:15 a.m.

What We're About

On behalf of our church family, we welcome you in the name of Jesus. Ascension is a special church in the midst of the unique community of Sierra Madre in Southern California.

Sierra Madre is in many respects a village in the midst of a major metropolitan area. While Ascension is the village church, our people come both from “town” and beyond. We are blessed with a beautiful historic building and setting, a vibrant tradition of worship and ministry, an open and inclusive spirit, and most of all, a healthy congregation of younger and older people, single folks and families and even the occasional pet – indeed a rich blend.

Established in 1885, Ascension has a rich history. A wood frame building erected in 1886 was demolished by a windstorm the next year. A new stone building was begun shortly thereafter and continues in use. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The church building suffered major damage in the 1991 Sierra Madre Earthquake, and repairs were completed in the following year. The church celebrated its first 125 years a few years ago and has moved into its second century with vigor, enthusiasm and a growing and dedicated congregation from around the San Gabriel Valley area.

We believe God is calling all people into community where we can worship, discover, and use the gifts with which God has endowed us and find healing, spiritual nourishment, and companions in ministry. At Ascension, people truly care for one another in the abundance of Christ's grace, love and mercy. In this spirit, we would love to get to know you.

LEADERSHIP: *Rector:* The Very Reverend Canon Michael A. Bamberger, M. Div.;

Assisting the Rector: The Reverend Canon Deacon Ed Sniecienski

Parish Administrator: Ms. Kim Lumino; *Director of Music and Organist:* Mr. Robert Williamson;

Administrative Coordinator: Mrs. Jean Rowe; *Altar Guild Director:* Mrs. Lynne Holl; *Senior Warden:* Mr. Gordon Tomaske; *Junior Warden:* Mr. Cameron Cox; *Treasurer:* Mr. Eric Mulfinger;

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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