

## Readings – Palm Sunday 24-03-2024

### Sentence

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, 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.

Philippians 2.10–11

### Collect

Everlasting God,  
in your tender love for the human race  
you sent your Son to take our nature,  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will  
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Palms

### Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel say,  
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> **The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> **This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

<sup>26</sup> **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>28</sup> **You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.**

<sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

## **Gospel – Mark 11.1-11**

**A reading from the Gospel of our Lord, according to St Mark, commencing at chapter 11, beginning at the 1st verse.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”’ <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna!

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

<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

<sup>11</sup> 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.

Hear the gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

## Isaiah 50.4-9a

Our first reading is taken from Isaiah, chapter 50 beginning at verse 4

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 31.9-18**

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 31. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble:  
my eye wastes away for grief,  
my throat also and my inward parts.

<sup>10</sup> **For my life wears out in sorrow,  
and my years with sighing:  
my strength fails me in my affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> I am become the scorn of all my enemies:  
and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.

<sup>12</sup> **I am a thing of horror to my friends:  
and those that see me in the street shrink from me.**

<sup>13</sup> I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind:  
I have become like a broken vessel.

<sup>14</sup> **For I hear the whispering of many:  
and fear is on every side;**

<sup>15</sup> While they plot together against me:  
and scheme to take away my life.

<sup>16</sup> **But in you, Lord, have I put my trust:  
I have said 'You are my God.'**

<sup>17</sup> All my days are in your hand:  
O deliver me from the power of my enemies  
and from my persecutors.

<sup>18</sup> **Make your face to shine upon your servant:  
and save me for your mercy's sake.**

## **Philippians 2.5-11**

Our second reading is taken from Philippians, chapter 2, beginning at verse 5

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Mark 15.1-39**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 15, beginning at verse 1, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. <sup>6</sup> Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. <sup>7</sup> Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. <sup>8</sup> So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. <sup>9</sup> Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' <sup>10</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. <sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. <sup>12</sup> Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' <sup>13</sup> They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' <sup>14</sup> Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' <sup>15</sup> So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him

over to be crucified. <sup>16</sup> Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' <sup>19</sup> They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. <sup>21</sup> They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup> Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup> It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' <sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!' <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. <sup>33</sup> When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which



means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>35</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' <sup>36</sup> And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' <sup>40</sup> There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. <sup>41</sup> These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. <sup>42</sup> When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**