



A Celebration for Sixth Sunday of Lent (*Palm Sunday*)

Sentence

Year ABC

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.

(Phillipians 2:10-11)

Opening Prayer or 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.**

or

God of all,

you gave your only-begotten Son

to take the form of a servant,

and to be obedient even to death on a cross:

give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus

that, sharing in his humility,

we may come to be with him in his glory,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Season

Almighty and everlasting God,

you hate nothing that you have made,

and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent:

create and make in us new and contrite hearts,

that we, worthily lamenting our sins,

and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for the Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday) (Year C)

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 50 beginning at verse 4

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 awakens —
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

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.

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;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 31:9-18 APBA p250

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

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

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

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

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

14 For I hear the whispering of many:
and fear is on every side;

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

- 16 But in you, Lord, have I put my trust:
I have said 'You are my God.'
- 17 All my days are in your hand:
O deliver me from the power of my enemies
and from my persecutors.
- 18 Make your face to shine upon your servant:
and save me for your mercy's sake.

New Testament: Philippians 2:5-11

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 8 beginning at verse 6

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
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

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

*A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 27,
beginning at verse 11*

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to

ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were

keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

For the Blessing of the Palms (Year A)

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11 (Year A)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, “The Master needs them and will send them back directly.”’ This took place to fulfill the prophecy:

Say to the daughter of Zion:

Look, your king comes to you:

he is humble, he rides on a donkey

and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.

So they took the colt to Jesus, and throwing their garments over its back they helped Jesus on to it. As he moved off, people spread their cloaks in the road, and now, as he was approaching the downward slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole group of disciples joyfully began to praise God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen. They cried out:

‘Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!’

So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the tress and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting:

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!’

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!’

Hosanna in the highest heavens!’

Some Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Master, check your disciples,’ but he answered, ‘I tell you, if these keep silence the stones will cry out.’

And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. ‘Who is this?’ people asked, and the crowds answered, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God