

# PALM SUNDAY

Cycle C

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*The King of Glory comes,  
the nation rejoices  
Open the gates before him,  
lift up your voices.*

1. Who is the King of Glory?  
How shall we call Him?  
He is Emmanuel,  
the promise of ages.
2. In all of Galilee,  
in city and village  
he goes among his people,  
curing their illness.
3. Sing then of David's Son,  
our Saviour and brother;  
in all of Galilee  
was never another.
4. He gave his life for us,  
the pledge of salvation,  
He took upon himself  
the sins of the nation.
5. He conquered sin and death,  
he truly has risen.  
And he will share with us  
his heavenly vision.



3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11  
*He humbled himself, but God raised him high.*

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory:

## GOSPEL

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
22:14 - 23:56

- N** When the hour came Jesus took his place at table,  
and the apostles with him. And he said to them,
- J** I have longed to eat this passover with you before I  
suffer; because, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until  
it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.
- N** Then, taking a cup, he gave thanks and said,
- J** Take this and share it among you, because from now  
on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the kingdom  
of God comes.
- N** Then he took some bread, and when he had given  
thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying,
- J** This is my body which will be given for you; do this  
as a memorial of me.
- N** He did the same with the cup after supper, and said,
- J** This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will  
be poured out for you.

And yet, here with me on the table is the hand of  
the man who betrays me. The Son of Man does

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50: 4-7  
*I did not cover my face against insult - I know I shall not be  
shamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 21:8-9.17-20.23-24. R) v.2  
**R. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)



indeed go to his fate even as it has been decreed, but alas for that man by whom he is betrayed!

**N** And they began to ask one another which of them it could be who was to do this thing.

A dispute arose also between them about which should be reckoned the greatest, but he said to them,

**J** Among pagans it is the kings who lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are given the title Benefactor. This must not happen with you. No; the greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves. For who is the greater: the one at table or the one who serves? The one at table, surely? Yet here I am among you as one who serves!

You are the men who have stood by me faithfully in my trials; and now I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father conferred one on me: you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon! Satan, you must know, has got his wish to sift you all like wheat; but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail, and once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers.

**N** He answered,

**O** Lord, I would be ready to go to prison with you, and to death.

**N** Jesus replied,

**J** I tell you, Peter, by the time the cock crows today you will have denied three times that you know me.

**N** He said to them,

**J** When I sent you out without purse or haversack or sandals, were you short of anything?

**N** They answered,

**C** No.

**N** He said to them,

**J** But now if you have a purse, take it: if you have a haversack, do the same; if you have no sword, sell your cloak and buy one, because I tell you these words of scripture have to be fulfilled in me: He let himself be taken for a criminal. Yes, what scripture says about me is even now reaching its fulfilment.

**N** They said,

**C** Lord, there are two swords here now.

**N** He said to them,

**J** That is enough!

**N** He then left the upper room to make his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, with the disciples following. When they reached the place he said to them,

**J** Pray not to be put to the test.

**N** Then he withdrew from them, about a stone's throw away, and knelt down and prayed, saying,

**J** Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.

**N** Then an angel appeared to him coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly, and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. He said to them,

**J** Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test.

**N** He was still speaking when a number of men appeared, and at the head of them the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, who went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said,

**J** Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

**N** His followers, seeing what was happening, said,

**C** Lord, shall we use our swords?

**N** And one of them struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. But at this Jesus spoke,

**J** Leave off! That will do!

**N** And touching the man's ear he healed him.

Then Jesus spoke to the chief priests and captains of the Temple guard and elders who had come for him. He said.

**J** Am I a brigand that you had to set out with swords and clubs? When I was among you in the Temple day after day you never moved to lay hands on me. But this is your hour; this is the reign of darkness.

**N** They seized him then and led him away, and they took him to the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance. They had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and Peter sat down among them, and as he was sitting there by the blaze a servant-girl saw him, peered at him and said,

**O** This person was with him too.

**N** But he denied it, saying,

**O** Woman, I do not know him.

**N** Shortly afterwards, someone else saw him and said,

**O** You are another of them.

**N** But Peter replied,

**O** I am not, my friend.

**N** About an hour later, another man insisted, saying,

**O** This fellow was certainly with him. Why, he is a Galilean.

**N** Peter said,

**O** My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.

**N** At that instant, while he was still speaking, the cock crew, and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will have disowned me three times'. And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Meanwhile the men who guarded Jesus were mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying,

**C** Play the prophet. Who hit you then?

**N** And they continued heaping insults on him.

When day broke there was a meeting of the elders of the people, attended by the chief priests and scribes. He was brought before their council, and they said to him,

**C** If you are the Christ, tell us.

**N** He replied,

**J** If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the Power of God.

**N** Then they all said,

**C** So you are the Son of God then?

**N** He answered,

**J** It is you who say I am.

**N** They said,

**C** What need of witnesses have we now? We have heard it for ourselves from his own lips.

**N** The whole assembly then rose, and they brought him before Pilate.

They began their accusation by saying,

**C** We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.

**N** Pilate put to him this question,

**O** Are you the king of the Jews?

**N** He replied,

**J** It is you who say it.

**N** Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd,

**O** I find no case against this man.

**N** But they persisted,

**C** He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.

**N** When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. He said,

**O** You brought this man before me as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.

**N** But as one man they howled,

**C** Away with him! Give us Barabbas!

**N** This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.

Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back.

**C** Crucify him! Crucify him!

**N** And for the third time he spoke to them,

**O** Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and let him go.

**N** But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified, and their shouts were growing louder.

Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

**J** Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, 'Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!'; to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?

**N** Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed.

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said,

**J** Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.

**N** Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him, saying,

**C** He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.

**N** The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said,

**C** If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.

**N** Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him, saying,

**O** Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us as well.

**N** But the other spoke up and rebuked him,

**O** Have you no fear of God at all? You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**N** He replied

