

Palm Sunday
Passion Sunday

March 20, 2005

Order of Worship

The congregation and choir gather outside the church. The following are said:

GREETING

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise and bless you, ever-living God,
for the acts of love by which you redeem the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**This day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem
and was proclaimed king
by those who spread their garments and palm branches
along his way,**

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory;
and grant that we who bear them
may always acclaim Jesus Messiah
by walking the way of his suffering and cross;

**that, dying and rising with him,
we may enter into your kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

Amen.

The congregation makes its way in joyful procession into the sanctuary. As the people arrive, the following hymn is sung:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: All Glory, Laud, and Honor, No. 280 (all verses)

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Luke 19:28-40

Response: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

ANTHEM: Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates, from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in! Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory. (Psalm 24:7-10)

CONFESSION

**For all that we ought to have thought and have not thought,
For all that we ought to have said and have not said,
For all that we ought to have done, and have not done;
For all that we ought not to have thought, and yet have thought,
For all that we ought not to have spoken, and yet have spoken,
For all that we ought to not to have done, and yet have done;
For thoughts, words, and works, pray we, O God, for forgiveness and repent with penance.**

MUSIC: Sinfonia

Comfort ye my people
Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1-3)

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40:4)

from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our Redeemer,
you sent your Son to be born of a woman
and to die for us on a cross;

**By your Holy Spirit, illumine our lives with your Word
so, as the Scripture is read and proclaimed this day,
we may be reconciled and won wholly to your will;**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION STORY, Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion Story
(Matthew 27:11-54)

CHOIR:

“Behold the Lamb of God,”
from *Messiah*
George Frideric Handel

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

READER 1:

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned him, saying, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”

READER 2:

And while he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

READER 1:

Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

READER 2:

And he did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed.

HYMN:

What Wondrous Love Is This

No. 292, v. 1-2

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
To lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
To lay aside his crown for my soul.**

READER 1:

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that because of envy they had handed him over.

READER 2:

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death.

READER 1:

But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said,

ALL: “Barabbas.”

HYMN:

Ah, Holy Jesus

No. 289, v. 1

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!**

READER 1:

Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said,

ALL: “Crucify Him!”

HYMN:

Ah, Holy Jesus

No. 289, v. 2

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**

READER 1:

And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying,

ALL: “Crucify Him!”

HYMN:

Ah, Holy Jesus

No. 289, v. 3

**Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.**

READER 2:

When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to that yourselves.” And all the people said,

ALL: “His blood shall be on us and on our children!”

HYMN:

O Crucified Redeemer

No. 425, v. 1-3

**O crucified Redeemer, whose lifeblood we have spilt,
To you we raise our guilty hands, and humbly own our guilt.
Today we see your passion spread open to our gaze;
The crowded street, the country road, its Calvary displays.**

**We hear you cry of anguish, we see your life outpoured
Where battlefields run red with blood, our neighbors’ blood, O Lord;
And in that other battle, the fight for daily bread,**

Where might is right and self is king, we see your thorn-crowned head.

**The groaning of creation wrung out by pain and care,
The anguish of a million hearts that break in dumb despair;
O crucified Redeemer, these are your cries of pain;
O may they break our selfish hearts, and love come in to reign.**

READER 1:

Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they knelt down before him and mocked him, saying,

ALL: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

READER 1:

They spat on him, and took the reed and began to beat him on the head.

HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded No. 286, v. 1-2

O sacred Head, now wounded With grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, thine only crown: How pale thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish Which once was bright as morn!	What thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, But thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; Look on me with thy favor, Vouchsafe to me thy grace.
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READER 2:

After they had mocked him, they took the scarlet robe off him and put his own garments back on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, he was unwilling to drink.

READER 1:

And when they had crucified him, they divided up his garments among themselves by casting lots. And sitting down, they began to keep watch over him there. And above his head they put up the charge against him, which read, “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

HYMN: Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed No. 294, v. 1-2

Alas! and did my Savior bleed,	And did my Sovereign die? Would he devote that sacred head
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For sinners such as I?

**Was it for crimes that I have done,
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!**

READER 2:

At that time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those passing by were hurling abuse at him, wagging their heads and saying,

ALL: “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

READER 1:

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying,

ALL: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; Let God rescue him now, if He delights in him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

READER 2:

The robbers who had been crucified with him were also insulting him with the same words.

SOLO: “All they that see him”
from *Messiah*

All they that see him laugh him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying
(Psalm 22:7)

CHORUS: “He trusted in God”
from *Messiah*

He trusted in God that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he delight in him.
(Psalm 22: 8)

SOLO: “Thy rebuke”
from *Messiah*

*Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; he is full of heaviness:
he looked for some to have pity on him, but there was no man; neither found he any to comfort
him.*
(Psalm 69:20)

“Behold and see”
from *Messiah*

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.
(Lamentations 1:12)

READER 1:

Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.

READER 2:

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

READER 1:

And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying,

ALL: “This man is calling for Elijah.”

READER 1:

Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave him a drink. But the rest of them said,

ALL: “Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

READER 2:

And Jesus ^(AT)cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit.

HYMN:

’Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies

No. 282, v. 1

**’Tis finished! the Messiah dies,
Cut off for sins, but not his own.
Accomplished is the sacrifice,
The great redeeming work is done.**

**The veil is rent; in Christ alone
The living way to heaven is seen;
The middle wall is broken down,
And all the world may enter in**

**’Tis finished! All my guilt and pain,
I want no sacrifice beside;
For me, for me the Lamb is slain;
’Tis finished! I am justified.**

READER 1:

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said,

ALL: “Truly this was the Son of God!”

HYMN (stand):

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

No. 297, v. 1

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with
tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.**

OFFERTORY:

Surely he hath borne our griefs

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

And with his stripes

And with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

All we like sheep have gone astray

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

HYMN: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, No. 94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RECESSIONAL HYMN: O Crucified Redeemer, No. 425

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE