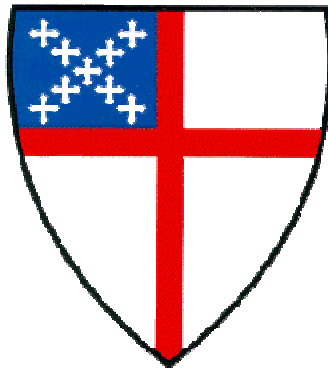


A Service for
The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday



Episcopal service booklet for Lay Leaders

Preparing for this Service

It is important to prepare for this service.

This entire service is designed to be led by Lay Leaders (non-ordained ministers). If the community has a Licensed Worship Leader, it is appropriate that the Worship Leader(s) serve as a presiding leader and coordinate preparing for the service. Leaders in the service may dress in a white robe (alb) or in cassock and surplice (long black robe with a short white cover); however, it is not required that Leaders dress in church vestments. Where the directions (*printed in italics*) indicate parts that are to be said by *the Leader*, it should be understood that these parts may be led by any person assigned to lead that part of the service whether licensed by the bishop or not.

It is desirable to have different readers for the lessons; however, an individual may be assigned to read more than one lesson. Readers should be assigned before the service begins. Any person willing and able may be invited to read at this service. There are five readings including two readings from the Gospels. The first Gospel lesson may be read by any person assigned. The Passion Gospel reading may be read by a single reader or read as a “drama” with specific parts assigned to individuals.

An Elder, Chief, or other community leader may say the Prayer for the Community at the conclusion of the service.

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

When circumstances permit, the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, either outside or in the center of the village, so that all may go into the church in procession.

The branches of palm or of other trees or shrubs (small spruce bows, or willow are an appropriate substitute for palms) to be carried in the procession may be distributed to the people before the service, or after the prayer over the branches.

The following or some other suitable anthem is sung or said, the people standing.

Leader: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

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

Here the Leader or other person appointed reads one of the following

Year A: Matthew 21:1-11

Year B: Mark 11:1-11a

Year C: Luke 19:29-40

At the end of the reading the reader says:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Leader then says the following prayer;

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Leader: 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 following is said

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

People: Hosanna in the highest.

The Procession

Everyone joins the procession into the church or wherever the rest of the service will be celebrated. A Leader first saying:

Leader: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, all hold branches in their hands, and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung, such as the hymn “All glory, laud, and honor” (Hymn #154) and Psalm 118:19-29

At a suitable place, often the entrance to the church building or once everyone has entered the church, the procession may halt while the following or some other appropriate Collect is said;

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of the life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Leaders should choose lessons before the service begins

Old Testament Isaiah 45:21-25, Or Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22:1-21, Or 22:1-11

Epistle Philippians 2:5-11

The Passion Gospel is announced in the following manner

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.

Year A: Matthew 26:36—27:54(55-66) Or 27:1-54 (55-66)

Year B: Mark 14:32—15:39 (40-47) Or 15:1-39 (40-47)

Year C: Luke 22:39—23:49 (50-56) Or 23:1-49 (50-56)

The Passion Gospel may be read or chanted by lay persons. Specific roles may be assigned to different persons, the congregation taking the part of the crowd.

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions the arrival at Golgotha (Matthew 27:33, Mark 15:22, Luke 23:33) all stand.

Silence follows the Reading of the Passion. After which, the Leader invites the community to prayer:

Prayers of the People Form I BCP pg. 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, say-ing, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city (town, village, _____), for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the de-parted, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of [_____ and of all the] saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence; The people add their own petitions and prayer concerns.

The Leader says the following Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The service continues with the Confession of Sin:

Confession of Sin

The Leader says to the people;

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader and People together say;

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

At the conclusion of the Confession of Sin and Elder or the Leader says;

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The service concludes with the Prayer for the Community and dismissal

An Elder, Chief, Community Leader, or the Worship Leader says the following prayer:

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season and week, we may learn to know your more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then is added:

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.