

us. In the face of His coming death on the cross, Jesus was troubled. Jesus knew He would face the baptism of fire, the final purpose of His mission, to suffer and die, would be accomplished and God would be glorified. In the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus God was glorified. The Greeks asked to see Jesus but all around Him heard the voice. The Greeks asked to see Jesus and they got far more than they had asked for. We ask to see Jesus and in the faith we are given to see we are made over into those who deserve salvation.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

® O Lord God, Your ways are mercy and truth to those who keep Your law and Your Word. Let Your peace, like the gentle dew from Heaven, fall on all who have come into Your house this day to offer You the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.

O Lord Jesus, Son of David, Who spoke of Your own torture and death, have mercy on us. Open our sin-darkened eyes to behold Your glory and rejoice in Your salvation. Bring divine light to our blind souls, that we and all people may see in You the treasures of Heaven. Teach us to pray, give us faith, and make us believe in Your power, in Your goodness, in Your Love.

O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of Life. By Your inspiration You have delivered us from the power of darkness and set us into the kingdom of God. Enlighten our understanding and grant us the spirit of great faith, a true expectation of eternal life, and a pure love. Teach us of the great Love with which Christ Loved us and guide us so we walk in His light and truth.

O God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in Whom we live and move and have our being, bless this day to our growth in grace. bless this, Your House, that it may continually be a place where Your honor dwells, Your name is praised, and Your truth is proclaimed. Bless our homes, that they may be rooted and grounded in love and every good work.

Help all those among us who may be enduring any affliction, trial, or adversity. Show forth Your ability and power to rule all who believe. Grant us faithful leaders, religious freedom, just laws and righteous judges, that we may pass our time in Your quiet praise.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

We sing Hosanna to You, Lord, Jesus Christ, Whose name we bear, Whose doctrines we confess and Whom one day we shall see face to face, be all honor and glory forever and ever.

© Amen.

PASSION SUNDAY

Chant Tone



Introit

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord!*

We bless you from the house | of the Lord.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*

that the king of glory | may come in. Who is this king of —glory?*

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in—battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*

that the king of glory | may come in. Who is this king of —glory?*

The Lord of hosts, He is the king of —glory!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord!*

We bless you from the house | of the Lord.

(Antiphon, Psalm 118:26;
Psalm 24:7-10)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy — places,*

by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal re — demption.

Therefore He is the mediator of a new | covenant,*

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal in | inheritance,
He sent redemption to His — people;*

He has commanded His covenant for — ever.

(Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: With hosannas we come before You, O Lord of hosts. We praise You for sending Your Son as the king Who came in Your name to establish peace between Heaven and Earth. We are thankful that He did not consider Himself too far above us to humble Himself and come as true Man. We deeply appreciate His fulfillment of the Law, which we are unable to keep. Grant us grace to live to Your honor and glory, so that our lives will reflect our eternal gratitude for the salvation He won for us through His life of perfect obedience and through His sacrificial suffering and death. We pray in the name of our king of kings.. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE HISTORIC SETTING OF PALM SUNDAY: As much as I would like to claim it is, Palm Sunday is not one of the historic liturgies. In the 4th Century, people in Jerusalem would have their children drop palm leaves on their way to church, but it wasn't until the 9th and 10th centuries in France that the tradition of a processional began. In Germany young boys were encouraged to put flowers and green boughs around a cross in their church's court yard. The term Paschal came from this tradition and (although there is some dispute on the day) Ponce de Leon "found" Florida on this day in 1513 and named it after Paschal Florida (the Feast of the Flowers.) We welcome everyone to our celebration of Christ triumphant.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Obedient To God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 118:26;) Psalm 24:7-10

King David's, Psalm 118, is an unidentified song of praise. Verse 26 is an anticipation of the coming Savior, Who will be met with excitement and praise. Psalm 24 was written by David to express the wonder of the kingdom of the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled that by His willing sacrifice. The doors and gates keeping us away from God are thrown open by the Messiah, by the Christ, so that the king of Glory can come in. "Who is this king of Glory? The Lord...." Jesus is the Lord in our flesh.

COLLECT

This prayer is a big change from the historic prayer. As the chosen of God we ask to participate in the Resurrection of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Zechariah 9:9-12

This prophecy of Zechariah declared that the Christ would come to us having accomplished the wonder of peace. He was victorious in the war of our sinful flesh and God, and He would come in a parade to proclaim the victory. Opening the prisons to release the prisoners of war, He would rebuild the fortresses. The booty from His victory would give twice as much to those who joined Him.

GRADUAL—Hebrews 9:12a,c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

Hebrews chapter 9 compares anything good in the Old Testament with the greater good of the Gospel of the New Testament. Jesus is the mediator of the New and much better covenant, for His is a covenant of life with God. Psalm 111 is the Hallelujah Psalm for in it David, intending this for worship, praises God in many ways and at all times. (We used a verse with no Hallelujahs.)

EPISTLE LESSON—Philippians 2:5-11

Christians at Philippi struggled with two competing mindsets: the mind of selfish man and the Spirit of Christ who made Himself expendable for others. On the one hand, they were a charitable. On the other hand, they were seriously self-absorbed. The apostles plea was to put on the Lord. That is to say, the mind of Christ becomes our mind, His thoughts become our thoughts. His view of life becomes our outlook entirely so that, as He did, we humble ourselves and serve others even to the point of making ourselves expendable for them.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 12:20-43

Jesus was on His way to die. His death would not be like those of His followers, for whom the terrors of death have been removed by canceled sin and guilt. Jesus' death would remove the that sin and guilt for all of