

that isn't in the other Gospels. This account from Luke ties up a number of things. Two weeks ago Luke told us about the Galileans that Pilate killed in the temple. Last week we heard about the spies who were sent in to find things that would violate the authority of the governor. Luke shows us how far the leaders of the people went to lie about Jesus and get Pilate to put Him on the cross. Luke has the shortest account of the death of Jesus, but He gave us the wonder of the thief to the right hand of Christ to whom, after his confession Jesus declared, "Today you will be with me in paradise." It might be difficult to hear so many words read to us today. Consider the greater difficulty of Jesus, Who stayed on the cross and died, just-so-that we would be saved!

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℟ O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who for the transgressions of Your people, decided that Your Son should suffer strikes and blows, the righteous One for the unrighteous. We thank You for His work, that in His righteousness we are able to bring our prayers and petitions before You.

In this solemn hour of our worship, as we await the anniversary of the day of our Lord's Resurrection, help us to recall His suffering and death. As we commit ourselves body and soul into Your hand, promise to keep us in the deep serenity of the spirit which He maintained to the very last. Grant us the true and living trust that He displayed, that we may ever find ourselves kept in Your Holy and mighty care. Give us His perfect submission to Your Fatherly will, that we, too, may keep our soul in tranquility and peace now and in the hour of our death.

Help us understand that the darkness that attended His death, as nature herself mourning our Savior. In it we see the great evil done by our sin to the innocent blood of Jesus.

We contemplate in reverence the burial of Your Son Jesus Christ. We thank You that He sanctified our human body by His birth so also He sanctified our grave by His burial. When, in the time of our death, our bodies return to the Earth from where they came, bless that place, O God, and grant that we may at the last day rise from there to eternal life. Look on the resting places of our loved ones, and let them speak to us of the expectation and joy of Heaven in unison with all our beloved who have departed in the one true faith.

Give Your grace to everyone passing through the valley of the shadow of death, that they may trust in You for deliverance from all that ails them.

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

These and all the things of our hearts, we bring to You for the sake of the name of Jesus Christ.

© 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 He, 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 —redemption.

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)

### Verse

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the | point of death,\* even death | on a cross.

(Philippians 2:8b)

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Words fail us when we attempt to express our thanks, O Lord of hosts. Our Hosannas seem weak when compared to the greatness of our Savior Who came, in Your name, to establish peace between Heaven and Earth. We ask You to allow the assurance of the forgiveness, which we receive through Your Word and Sacraments to help keep us Your dedicated disciples. 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 CHURCH SET ASIDE THIS DAY AND CALLED IT PALM SUNDAY** to remember the day Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem to the shouts of, "Hosanna, Son of David." This is a day in stark contrast to the event which occurred five days later (which we call Good Friday) the day when the crowds shouted, "Crucify Him!" In the past, Last Sunday, (the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent) was known as Passion Sunday. In 2006 we changed this Sunday from Palm to Passion. Today begins Holy Week, the time we watch and pray with Jesus as we get ever closer to the events of the day on which our Savior died for our sins. Our new hymnal suggests that we begin our service with a Palm Sunday Lesson, and then at the normal time for reading the Gospel, we read the account of the Passion of Christ. You should also notice that the Introit does not include the Glori Patri. Lent renders us unworthy to praise God with an "hallelujah." Holy Week renders us unworthy to give Him glory.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

The Passion of Christ

**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, that Jesus fulfilled 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**

With the reminder of the death of Jesus, we ask to follow in His works to receive the same resurrection of the flesh in eternal life.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**—Deuteronomy 32:36-39

(This is the historic Good Friday Lesson.) God has no pleasure in the death of sinners but would rather they turn and have life in Him. God mocked the foolish desires of those who refused to believe in Him. He challenged them to be saved by their gods, and then He offered them the truth in His Son as the One Who will make alive those who are dead in sin.

**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. His is a covenant of life with God. Psalm 111 is the Hallelujah Psalm. David, intending this for worship. It praises God in many ways and at all times. (Because we are in Lent we use 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 mind of Christ (Who gave Himself for others.) They were charitable, but, they were self-absorbed. Paul's plea was to put on the Lord. Make the mind of Christ our mind, His thoughts become our thoughts. (We reflect this in the Collect.) 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 as nothing for them.

**VERSE**—Philippians 2:8b

The Verse is from our Epistle lesson.

**GOSPEL LESSON**—Luke 22:1–23:56

This is the "Passion Of Christ." (We will hear a little of this on Proper 29.) Luke wrote information about Pilate and Herod and one of the two thieves,