



Church of the Ascension

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

To find the video, go to YouTube and search for Ascension Lakewood

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Collect for Palm Sunday

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.

A Reading from Matthew

21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

A Reading from Matthew

27:11-54

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which

means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’” The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Sermon

Rev. Vincent Black

Let us pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

*And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We go forth in the name of Christ.

Please keep these people in your prayers today and all week long:

Our Spiritual Leaders:

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;
+Vincent -our Priest; Noah -our seminarian

Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Doug Amberman
Martha Amer
Bobby Armbrust
Debbie Armbrust
Ferdinand Afumbom
Endrit Bala
Cathy Barbato
Raymond Black
Teddi Black
Carolyn Borsini
Trad Burns
Larry Carey
Tom Clark
Steve Conrad
Karen Cooper
Linda Cramer
Carol Culp
Nancy Dittebrand
Joe Farkas
Don Farrell
Anne Ferguson
Bill Fickinger
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh
Linda Gardner
Martha Hartman
Pat Hendy
Diane Jackson
Lisa Jones
Beverly Kliber
Kristen Kowalsick
Delores Kulunigan

Barbara Kutza
Susan Latham
Marilyn Little
June Madden
MaryAnne
Lois Melchoire
David Meschter
Mueller family
Nancy Murphy
Mike Neill
Corey Niebes
Sabrina Pewitt
Mursay Pratt
Laine O'Donnell
Keith Robinson
Miriam Schantz
Thomas Scheidecker
Delores Schew
Pat Scheetz
Rachel Sexton
Roselle Sgambellone
Naomi Singer
Wendi Stemple
Jonathan Tallman
Corky Thacker
Jeanette Triplet
Bob Tremlin
Mimi Verberg
Betty Weber
Brenda & Jaimie Wells
Bill Wofford

Those We Know in the Military

Bill Bobowicz
Stephen Cline
Jason Hildebrandt
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline
Jason Strater
Brendon

The Departed

Rich Cottone
Bill Hopple
Steve Klonowski
Bonnie O'Donnell

Ron Oleksiak
Victor Ruggiero
Ed Watts

Holy Week in the Virtual World

On Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday Father Vincent will host a virtual gathering through GoToMeeting at 7:30pm. This will be an opportunity to read, pray, and discuss the significance of each day as well as the ritual and ceremony as laid out in the Book of Common Prayer. We will not do the service, but rather discuss highlights and read some of the prayers and scriptures assigned for the day.

Just as you receive Spires through Flocknote, so will you receive an invitation to connect through GoToMeeting on each of the holy days along with materials to be used for each evening. The line will be open starting at 7pm for anyone for who may want to try to come in early to make sure there are no problems. If you do run into a problem, you can call Dave Campion at 1-440-668-4905.

On Easter Sunday Bishop Hollingsworth is inviting us as a diocese to join the worship at Trinity Cathedral at 10am at <https://trinitycleveland.org/> Bishop Hollingsworth will preach. At 11am Father Vincent will host a GoToMeeting for anyone wishing to discuss the service and the bishop's sermon and then to share some time together in a virtual coffee hour. Father Vincent will not be recording his own sermon for Easter but instead asks that you view Bishop Hollingsworth's sermon instead.

Moving forward, beginning the second Sunday of Easter, anyone who would like to join Father Vincent for simple prayers, scripture lessons, and discussion on the lessons followed by virtual coffee hour you can do so at 10:30am. You will receive an invitation to GoToMeeting along with the bulletin and YouTube video of the recorded sermon.

We will have our Noonday Prayer as scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday of Holy Week.

We continue to find ways of staying connected and building community even as though we must be physically apart for now. My God continue to bless the Church of the Ascension.

Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

or

YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At theascensionshop.com you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to crowdes@gmail.com.)

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