

PALM SUNDAY— Sunday 2nd April 2023
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human
race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to
take upon him our flesh and to suffer death
upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his
patience and humility, and also be made
partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever.

1st READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a
teacher, that I may know how to sustain the
weary with a word. Morning by morning he
wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who
are taught. ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me, and my
cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did
not hide my face from insult and spitting.
⁷ The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not
been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like
flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend
with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my
adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹ It is the Lord
GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

2nd READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ
Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to
be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the
form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled
himself and became obedient to the point of
death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God
also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name
of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and
on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue
should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and
the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of
the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' ¹² But when
he was accused by the chief priests and elders,
he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him,
'Do you not hear how many accusations they
make against you?' ¹⁴ But he gave him no
answer, not even to a single charge, so that
the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was
accustomed to release a prisoner for the
crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that
time they had a notorious prisoner, called
Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ 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?' ¹⁸ For he realized that it
was out of jealousy that they had handed him
over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgement
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.' ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the
elders persuaded the crowds to ask for
Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹ The
governor again said to them, 'Which of the
two do you want me to release for you?' And
they said, 'Barabbas.' ²² Pilate said to them,
'Then what should I do with Jesus who is
called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him
be crucified!' ²³ Then he asked, 'Why, what evil
has he done?' But they shouted all the more,
'Let him be crucified!'

²⁴ 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.' ²⁵ Then
the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be
on us and on our children!' ²⁶ So he released
Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus,
he handed him over to be crucified.

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²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,²⁹ 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!' ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and 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.'⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² '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. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' ⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ 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?' ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ 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 POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

