

## Words of Welcome

The story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival. He went into the Temple and looked around at everything.

As we gather here for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in too and is looking around.

May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes.

Written by Ann Siddall and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website, <https://stillpointsa.org.au>.

## Hymn

### *Hosanna, loud hosanna*

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| 1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,<br>the little children sang;<br>through pillared court and temple<br>the joyful anthem rang.<br>To Jesus, who had held them<br>close folded to his breast,<br>the children sang their praises,<br>the simplest and the best. | 2. From Olivet they followed<br>amid the shouting crowd,<br>the victor palm branch waving<br>and chanting clear and loud;<br>Messiah, God's anointed,<br>rode there in humble state,<br>"Hosanna in the highest!"<br>rang out their praises great. |
| 3. "Hosanna in the highest!"<br>that ancient song we sing,<br>for Christ is our Redeemer,<br>the Lord of heaven our King.<br>Oh may we ever praise him<br>with heart and life and voice,<br>and in God's joyful presence<br>eternally rejoice!         |  |

"Hosanna, loud hosanna." Words by Jennette Threlfall,  
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## Call to Worship

They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus;  
and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

**As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.**

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives,  
the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice  
for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,

“Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered them:

**“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press. Page 130.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Holy God, Source, Saviour and Spirit of all life, Holy Three and Holy One,  
In you, we confront the mystery of mercy and the courage of compassion.  
As we face the cross on which Christ gave himself,  
we confront your willingness to die for us so that we might find new life.  
As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love,  
spilled out in the blood of Christ, our hearts are moved to praise you.  
Words cannot express our awe, the grief and the gratitude stirring within us,  
for all you have given us, and for all you will give us through such unspeakable love.  
We fall silent in wonder and praise, Holy God.

Merciful God, filled with wonder and praise,  
we acknowledge to you how often we fall short of your purposes for us.

**We confess it is easier for us to follow the crowd than follow Christ;  
we prefer to avoid conflict rather than stand up for your mercy and  
understanding. We allow strident voices in our times to drown out your  
wisdom and truth. Forgive us, O God.**

**Fill us with the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus,  
even when the cost to follow is high and reputations are at stake,  
for we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. The Liturgy of the Palms or the Liturgy of the Passion. The Last Sunday in Lent. April 13 2022. Year C.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

God dares us to think like Jesus, knowing that if we do, we will discover the gifts  
we can offer, the words of hope we can share, the grace we can use to bless  
those around us.

**God hears our prayers, listens to our hearts, fills us with forgiveness,  
and walks with us in these moments and in all the ones to come.**

**Thanks be to God for such incredible mercy! Amen.**

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## Scripture Reading with Reflections Luke 22:14-23:56

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## The Institution of the Lord's Supper

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup>for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup>for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God

comes.” <sup>19</sup>Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>20</sup>And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

<sup>21</sup>But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. <sup>22</sup>For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” <sup>23</sup>Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

## **The Dispute about Greatness**

<sup>24</sup>A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup>But he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup>But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup>For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup>“You are those who have stood by me in my trials; <sup>29</sup>and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, <sup>30</sup>so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

## **Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

<sup>31</sup>“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, <sup>32</sup>but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup>And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

## **Reflection**

So much bravado. Everyone wanting to be the important one. It certainly mimics what we often see being played out in our lives. It starts on the playground with words like, my dad is stronger than your dad, or my mom is better than your mom. We want to be stronger, better, richer, smarter... name your want to. And we certainly don’t want to think that we could be so weak as to fail those we have sworn to protect. Can you imagine what it must have felt like to Peter to have Jesus look at him and say, you will deny me three times before the end of the day? It must have felt like a slap in the face after three years of being a dedicated follower of Jesus.

And in the background to all this discussion is the accusation that someone will betray Jesus even while, and at the same time, Jesus promises the kingdom of God to each of them because of their faithfulness. It is so confusing. Promises of kingdoms and a speech about serving others. They are thinking they have come into Jerusalem to celebrate a king, Jesus finally taking command and overthrowing the Romans and rulers. They have no idea how the night and next days will unfold. It will be horrifying as they

experience their own weakness and see the brutality of the Roman Empire once again seemingly put an end to all of their life long longings, hopes, and desires to be free of Roman occupation.

As you consider the story today, where do you place yourself in this picture? How do you fit in? How does your own story of faith, your faithfulness, play out in the story of this night of promises and uncertainty. Keep this in mind as the story is shared of Christ's passion, the night of his arrest, the trial, the crucifixion and burial. Think on what it means that Jesus died, took the burden of sin for all of us...for all of us who don't get it right, who struggle with sin. Think on what it means to have a Saviour who loves humanity so much that he would give up his life so that you and I...all people...can live an abundant life. Life abundant in love, grace, and hope.

### **Purse, Bag, and Sword**

<sup>35</sup>He said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." <sup>36</sup>He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup>For I tell you, this scripture [as found in Isaiah 53:12] must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled." <sup>38</sup>They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."

### **Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives**

<sup>39</sup>He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." <sup>41</sup>Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup>"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." <sup>43</sup>Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. <sup>44</sup>In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

### **The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus**

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; <sup>48</sup>but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" <sup>49</sup>When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" <sup>50</sup>Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup>But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? <sup>53</sup>When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

## **Peter Denies Jesus**

<sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup>When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup>Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." <sup>57</sup>But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." <sup>58</sup>A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" <sup>59</sup>Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup>But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup>The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup>And he went out and wept bitterly.

## **Reflection**

How often we betray Jesus. We do it each time we fail to live lives of compassion, justice, mercy, and peace. We do it in small ways, like when we gossip or fail to be generous with our time, energy, and resources in ways that make the lives of others, particularly those on the margins, the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, whether physically in jail or imprisoned in lives of struggle, we betray Jesus when fail to be present for them or to lift up their voices. And it can make those people who have much compassion weep as they imagine Jesus turning to look at them because they or we are not strong enough. We fail to see how we can impact the lives of those we love and those we don't even know in ways that will transform them and us so that all can be alive and well in body, mind, and spirit. Sometimes we lash out, or we ignore, or we fail to even acknowledge that there is a problem because something is not our problem. But Jesus went to the cross for everyone, not just a few. As we continue the story, keep in mind how Jesus suffered because of a love so deep, so broad, and so high that it is beyond our comprehension. It is love for you and every human being past, present, and future. Listen now to the story of the court proceedings.

## **The Mocking and Beating of Jesus**

<sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; <sup>64</sup>they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" <sup>65</sup>They kept heaping many other insults on him.

## **Jesus before the Council**

<sup>66</sup>When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. <sup>67</sup>They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup>and if I question you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." <sup>70</sup>All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." <sup>71</sup>Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"



## **Jesus before Pilate (Chapter 23)**

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.” <sup>3</sup>Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered, “You say so.” <sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.” <sup>5</sup>But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

## **Jesus before Herod**

<sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup>And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup>When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. <sup>9</sup>He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup>Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup>That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

## **Jesus Sentenced to Death**

<sup>13</sup>Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup>and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup>Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup>I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” <sup>18</sup>Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” <sup>19</sup>(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup>Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; <sup>21</sup>but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup>A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” <sup>23</sup>But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup>He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

## **Reflection**

You heard it. Jesus was innocent. Both Pilate and Herod could not find any basis to the accusations of wrong doing by Jesus, at least not to the standards of even corrupt Roman leaders, yet they acquiesced to the people. When enough people speak out it can bring about good or evil. In this case, though Jesus was innocent, he would suffer

the consequences of a riled-up crowd. A crowd riled up by Jewish leaders who felt threatened by Jesus' teaching, leadership, and example.

How could the people go one day from welcoming Jesus as a king to shouts of "crucify him!"? As we have witnessed over the last few years, all it takes is enough people convinced of a truth whether or not it is true, and then whipped into a frenzy, and the riotous behaviour takes root and spreads. It is insidious. It is frightening and overwhelming. It appears that nothing can stop the injury and damage. Yet...yet, there is more to the story.

## **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

<sup>26</sup>As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' <sup>30</sup>Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup>For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

<sup>32</sup>Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

## **The Death of Jesus**

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." <sup>48</sup>And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they

returned home, beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

## **The Burial of Jesus**

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, <sup>51</sup>had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup>This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup>Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. <sup>54</sup>It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup>The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## **Reflection**

The story of Christ's passion is where we can see God take what others meant for harm and help it to become something else. In this case it was a horrifying story of Jesus death. It is a story of dying, yes, but also a story of life. Even on the cross Jesus cared for his mother and for his friends. Jesus thought of each person who had been a part of this litany of action that led Jesus from a triumphal entry into the city that he knew would betray him, the city where the temple of God stood. This litany of actions of others would follow him as he celebrated the Passover meal with those who were closest to him, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, be arrested, mocked and beaten, put on trial, hung on a cross and left to die. Yet he continued to care for all those who participated in this night and day of horror as he spoke the words, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." He showed compassion to the thief, who rather than mocking Jesus some more, choose to declare Jesus as innocent and Jesus promised him life in paradise.

Then Jesus died. One might think the story ends there...that death has won, which would mean that none of us has hope for life. If death wins then sin wins and we can never become something more than the sum of our worst and best moments.

But the story doesn't end here. Just as there was a promise of the kingdom of God for the followers of Christ then, and the thief who saw Jesus as the saviour he was, the Kingdom of God is come to earth for us, everyone of us, regardless of social status, of wealth, of health, regardless of how we identify ourselves socially, sexually, or any other barrier or boundary us humans like to mark territory with. There will be silence this week as the story of Easter lies dormant in a tomb. But wait for it. Death looks like it has won, but life is stirring and when life burst forth from the tomb, it will be glorious! Easter is approaching with power, authority, and amazing love.



## Prayers of the People

God, whose gracious love for us embraced that long and lonely journey to the cross, gather us close to you in these days when again we make that journey in meditation and recollection.

Help us to contemplate again the way taken by our Savior: the false charges against him, the fear and flight of the disciples, the kiss of betrayal, the crown of thorns, the purple robe—and in such contemplation give us courage to face those times in our own lives when Jesus received the same at our hands. Yet help us also remember that you have gone before us, so we look to you for compassion and forgiveness, knowing you are able to save.

When we are weak, make us strong; when hurt and resentful, make us forgiving; when defeated and discouraged, make us hopeful. Keep us from asking for mercy without giving it ourselves, from praying for your kingdom but never working for it.

In this week, deepen our faith by your matchless grace. Deepen the measure of our gratitude and Christian obedience. Move us, who have so much, to share with others who have so little. Uphold us when we summon our courage to speak out for the alien and stranger within our communities and country and for those long denied dignity and freedom.

Guard and guide us through these days of reflection and remembrance. Guard and guide us through all our days until we come at last to that day when all our days and journeys will be gathered into your eternity, and we shall be with you forever. Glory be to you, O God. Amen.

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## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

## Invitation to the offering

Let us honour Christ and bring our offerings of praise to him.

Let us present to God our gifts and offerings for the transformation of this world.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. The Liturgy of the Palms or the Liturgy of the Passion. The Last Sunday in Lent. April 13 2022. Year C.

Should you so choose, this time is an opportunity to give a financial gift in honour of God's work in your life and as a response in faith. It is used by our ministry in glory to God. So, we gather our gifts together and present them as an offering of gratitude and praise.

There are various ways that people give to this congregation for our work as God's people, through signing up for a monthly donation, or sending an etransfer.

Check out the opportunities to support St. Andrew's ministry at our website, [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, ON – Part of the PCCWeb network of churches](#)

## Hymn

*When I survey the wondrous cross*

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| 1. When I survey the wondrous cross<br>on which the Prince of glory died,<br>my richest gain I count but loss,<br>and pour contempt on all my pride.          | 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,<br>save in the death of Christ my God;<br>all the vain things that charm me most,<br>I sacrifice them to his blood. |
| 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,<br>Sorrow and love flow mingled down!<br>Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,<br>or thorns compose so rich a crown? | 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,<br>that were a offering far too small;<br>love so amazing, so divine,<br>demands my soul, my life, my all.           |

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## Benediction

Passing from joy into sorrow and on to jubilation,  
**we come to Christ this holy week.**

Today is only a part of the story.

**Jesus' triumph leads to his death,  
his death to his resurrection.**

May the journey of this week lead you  
into the fullness of Christ's love.

[Ministry Matters™ | Worship Elements: Palm Sunday 2025](#)

## Postlude