



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6861 www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The congregation will gather in the narthex for the blessing of the palms.

The Liturgy of the Palms

The people standing.

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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."

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.*

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 50:4-9a

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. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 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.

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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God!*

The Psalm

Psalm 31:9-16

In te, Domine, speravi

9. Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
10. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
11. I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me.
12. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.
13. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
14. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.
15. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 2:5-11

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

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God!*

Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross

H 474

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

See handout

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, especially at this time, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill, or in any trouble, need or sorrow, especially those on our parish prayer list, and for any others we might now name, either silently or aloud. (Pause) Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone before us, and for any others we might now name, either silently or aloud. (Pause) We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all Christians who face persecution.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.

Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory

Let thy Blood in mercy poured

H 313

After the offertory piece has been played, the people stand and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100".

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Celebrant and People together

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.

The Deacon then presents the Sacrament to the people.

The Gifts of God, for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and welcome to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a prayer, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest. Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door by the readers' lectern.

Communion Hymns

And now, O Father, mindful of the love

H 337

Our Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and
heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you

as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To
him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Recessional

At the Name of Jesus

H 435

The Dismissal

The departing minister then says


Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude




The palms are given by Mike and Sloane Hunter in loving memory
of Mrs. Betsy Davis and Mrs. Ann Hillier.



Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor,
Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart,
Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines
Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Brian, Art Mead, Becky Steorts, Lane, Sherry, Scot,

Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Brenda Payne, and Joan Gray.



Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by David Hardin and Terry Whittington. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another better. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist.

Please join us!



Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Kersey

Lector

David Kersey

Becky Kersey

Teresa Paine

Pastor Paul Barker

Altar Guild

Chris Justice, Betty Nash, Linda Ammar

Holy Week Services

Thursday – April 6

Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

Friday – April 7

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross Noon

Good Friday Service 7:00pm

Sunday – April 9

Easter Sunday 10:00am

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – April 12

Union Mission 4:00pm

Episcopal Church Women meeting 6:00pm

Tuesday – April 18

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday - April 19

Men's Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday - April 20

Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am

Wednesday - April 26

Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Lenten Study: We will be wrapping up our reflections and discussions on the book, *Living the Way of Love* this Wednesday, April 5th, following noonday prayer at 11:00am. Hope to see ya'll then!

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host or hostess is needed for **April 16**. Sign up on the white board located outside the Library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Recycling Program: Christ Church will be starting a recycling program soon. We need volunteers to take the items to a recycling truck at Mitchell Stadium every Thursday from 1-4 pm. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be in the narthex. Thanks for all who volunteer for this program.

Pledge Envelopes: Please pick up your pledge payment envelopes, which are located on the table in the narthex.

Parish Life: There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for Parish Life. If you want to be a part of this very important ministry at our church, consider signing up. You can contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com or 276-326-2411 with any questions.

ECW Meeting: The Episcopal Church Women will return to our quarterly meetings on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:00 pm in Rowley Hall. All Christ Church women are invited to attend. Pastor Paul will attend and offer a brief devotional. We will share a light dinner and dessert and ask that you bring a monetary donation to cover the expenses of the dinner. There will be a signup sheet posted in the Narthex so we can plan for our dinner. We hope you will join us!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Pastor

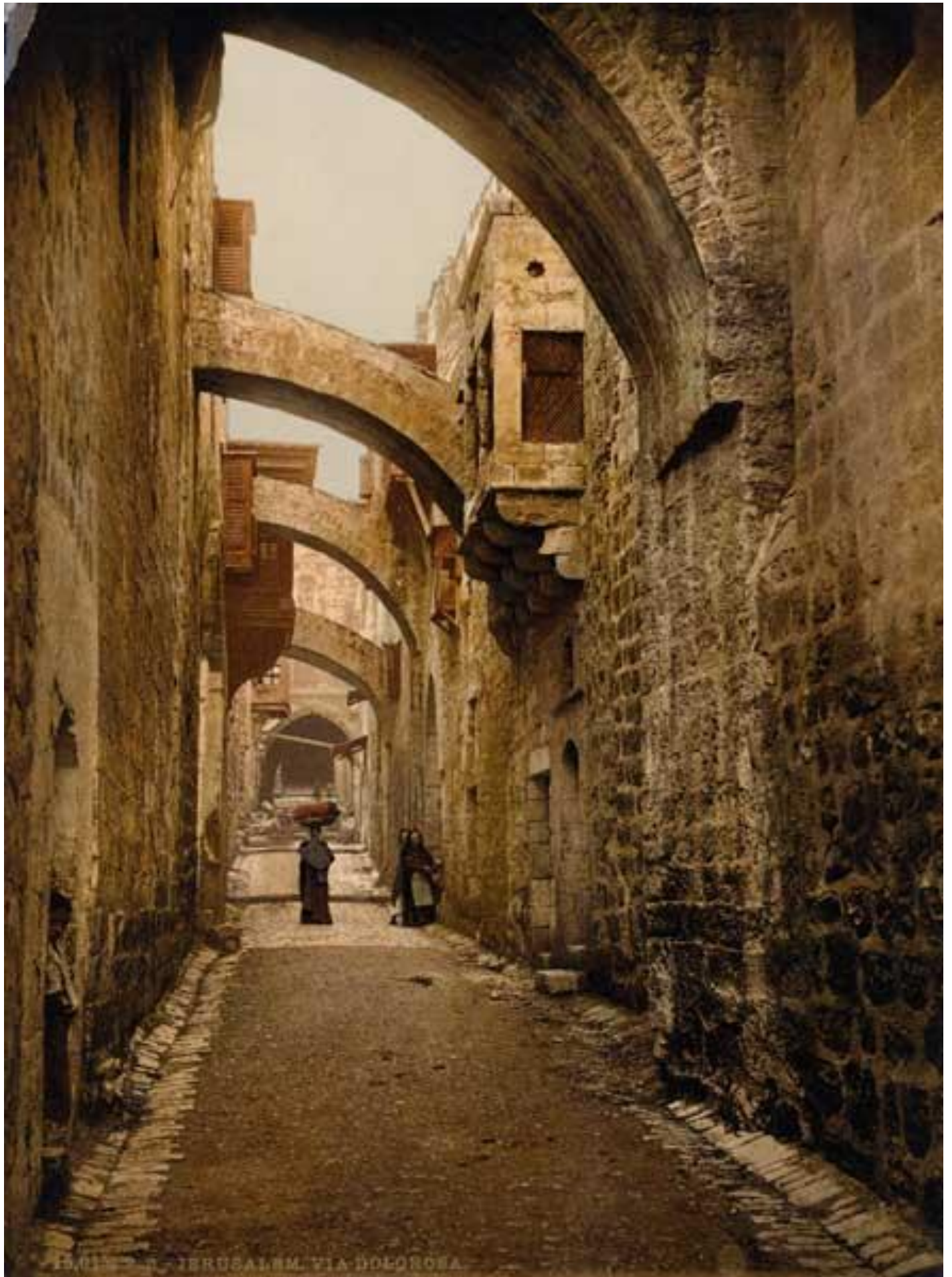
Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden



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