



**VILLANOVA**  
UNIVERSITY

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE  
LORD'S PASSION**

March 28, 2021

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA  
President

## PRELUDE

### O Sacred Head Surrounded

*O sacred head, surrounded by crown of piercing thorn! O bleeding head, so wounded, reviled and put to scorn! The pow'r of death comes o'er you, the glow of life decays, yet angel hosts adore you and tremble as they gaze.*

*I see your strength and vigor all fading in the strife, and death with cruel rigor, bereaving you of life; O agony and dying! O love to sinners free! Jesus, all grace supplying, O turn your face on me.*

*In this, your bitter passion, Good Shepherd, think of me with your most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be: Beneath your cross abiding forever would I rest, in your dear love confiding, and with your presence blest.*

### He Did It Just for Me

*He did it just for me, when he died on Calvary.  
I'm glad I made the choice so my soul would not be lost.  
I'll say "yes."*

*He died for all my transgressions and he died for all my iniquities.  
The chastisement of my peace was upon him, yes it was.  
And with his strife, with the Lord's strife, I am healed.*

*He died for all your transgressions and he died for all your iniquities.  
The chastisement of your peace was upon him, yes it was.  
And with his strife, with the Lord's strife, you are healed.*

## INTROIT

### Hosanna to the Son of David

*Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.*

## THE BLESSING OF THE PALM BRANCHES

### PROCLAMATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Mk 11:1-10

Presider: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem,  
to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives,  
he sent two of his disciples and said to them,  
“Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on  
entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat.  
Untie it and bring it here.

If anyone should say to you,

“Why are you doing this?” reply,

“The Master has need of it

and will send it back here at once.”

So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street,  
and they untied it.

Some of the bystanders said to them,

“What are you doing, untying the colt?”

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and  
they permitted them to do it.

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it.

And he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others  
spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## ENTRANCE

All Glory, Laud and Honor

*All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King! To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's Name coming, our King and Blessed One.*

*The company of angels are praising you on high; and we, with all creation, in chorus make reply.*

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went; our praise and prayers and anthems before you we present.*

*To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

*Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great source of love and goodness, our Savior and our King.*

## FIRST READING

Is 50:4-7

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me  
a well-trained tongue,  
that I might know how to speak to the weary  
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning  
he opens my ear that I may hear;  
and I have not rebelled,  
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,  
therefore I am not disgraced;  
I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

*All who see me deride me.*

*They curl their lips, they toss their heads.*

*“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;*

*Let him release him if he is his friend.”*

*Many dogs have surrounded me,*

*A band of the wicked beset me.*

*They tear holes in my hands and my feet.*

*I can count every one of my bones.*

*They divided my clothing among them.*

*They cast lots for my robe.*

*O Lord, do not leave me alone,*

*My strength, make haste to help me.*

*I will tell of your name to my brethren*

*and I will praise you where they are assembled.*

*“You who fear the Lord, give him praise;*

*All sons of Jacob give him glory.”*

## SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

coming in human likeness;

and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,

becoming obedient to the point of death,

even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name

which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Praise and honor to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL

Mk 14:1–15:47

The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread  
were to take place in two days' time.  
So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way  
to arrest him by treachery and put him to death.  
They said, "Not during the festival,  
for fear that there may be a riot among the people."  
When he was in Bethany reclining at table  
in the house of Simon the leper,  
a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil,  
costly genuine spikenard.  
She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head.  
There were some who were indignant.  
"Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil?  
It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages  
and the money given to the poor."  
They were infuriated with her.  
Jesus said, "Let her alone.  
Why do you make trouble for her?  
She has done a good thing for me.  
The poor you will always have with you,  
and whenever you wish you can do good to them,  
but you will not always have me.  
She has done what she could.  
She has anticipated anointing my body for burial.  
Amen, I say to you,  
wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world,  
what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve,  
went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them.  
When they heard him they were pleased and promised to pay him money.  
Then he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.  
On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread,  
when they sacrificed the Passover lamb,  
his disciples said to him,  
“Where do you want us to go  
and prepare for you to eat the Passover?”  
He sent two of his disciples and said to them,  
“Go into the city and a man will meet you,  
carrying a jar of water.  
Follow him.  
Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,  
‘The Teacher says, “Where is my guest room  
where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?”  
Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready.  
Make the preparations for us there.”  
The disciples then went off, entered the city,  
and found it just as he had told them;  
and they prepared the Passover.  
When it was evening, he came with the Twelve.  
And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said,  
“Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me,  
one who is eating with me.”  
They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one,  
“Surely it is not I?”  
He said to them,  
“One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish.  
For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him,  
but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.  
It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”  
While they were eating,  
he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave it to them, and said,  
“Take it; this is my body.”  
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them,  
and they all drank from it.

He said to them,  
“This is my blood of the covenant,  
which will be shed for many.  
Amen, I say to you,  
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine  
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”  
Then, after singing a hymn,  
they went out to the Mount of Olives.  
Then Jesus said to them,  
“All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written:  
    I will strike the shepherd,  
    and the sheep will be dispersed.  
But after I have been raised up,  
I shall go before you to Galilee.”  
Peter said to him,  
“Even though all should have their faith shaken,  
mine will not be.”  
Then Jesus said to him,  
“Amen, I say to you,  
this very night before the cock crows twice  
you will deny me three times.”  
But he vehemently replied,  
“Even though I should have to die with you,  
I will not deny you.”  
And they all spoke similarly.  
Then they came to a place named Gethsemane,  
and he said to his disciples,  
“Sit here while I pray.”  
He took with him Peter, James, and John,  
and began to be troubled and distressed.  
Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death.  
Remain here and keep watch.”  
He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed  
that if it were possible the hour might pass by him;  
he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you.  
Take this cup away from me,  
but not what I will but what you will.”  
When he returned he found them asleep.  
He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep?”

Could you not keep watch for one hour?  
Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.  
The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”  
Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing.  
Then he returned once more and found them asleep,  
for they could not keep their eyes open  
and did not know what to answer him.  
He returned a third time and said to them,  
“Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?  
It is enough. The hour has come.  
Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners.  
Get up, let us go.  
See, my betrayer is at hand.”  
Then, while he was still speaking,  
Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived,  
accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs  
who had come from the chief priests,  
the scribes, and the elders.  
His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying,  
“The man I shall kiss is the one;  
arrest him and lead him away securely.”  
He came and immediately went over to him and said,  
“Rabbi.” And he kissed him.  
At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.  
One of the bystanders drew his sword,  
struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his ear.  
Jesus said to them in reply,  
“Have you come out as against a robber,  
with swords and clubs, to seize me?  
Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area,  
yet you did not arrest me;  
but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled.”  
And they all left him and fled.  
Now a young man followed him  
wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body.  
They seized him,  
but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked.  
They led Jesus away to the high priest,  
and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.

Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest's courtyard  
and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire.  
The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin  
kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus  
in order to put him to death, but they found none.  
Many gave false witness against him,  
but their testimony did not agree.  
Some took the stand and testified falsely against him,  
alleging, "We heard him say,  
'I will destroy this temple made with hands  
and within three days I will build another  
not made with hands.'"  
Even so their testimony did not agree.  
The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus,  
saying, "Have you no answer?  
What are these men testifying against you?"  
But he was silent and answered nothing.  
Again the high priest asked him and said to him,  
"Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?"  
Then Jesus answered, "I am;  
and 'you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of the Power  
and coming with the clouds of heaven.'"  
At that the high priest tore his garments and said,  
"What further need have we of witnesses?  
You have heard the blasphemy.  
What do you think?"  
They all condemned him as deserving to die.  
Some began to spit on him.  
They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him, "Prophesy!"  
And the guards greeted him with blows.  
While Peter was below in the courtyard,  
one of the high priest's maids came along.  
Seeing Peter warming himself,  
she looked intently at him and said,  
"You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus."  
But he denied it saying,  
"I neither know nor understand what you are talking about."  
So he went out into the outer court.

Then the cock crowed.  
The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders,  
“This man is one of them.”  
Once again he denied it.  
A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more,  
“Surely you are one of them; for you too are a Galilean.”  
He began to curse and to swear,  
“I do not know this man about whom you are talking.”  
And immediately a cock crowed a second time.  
Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him,  
“Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times.”  
He broke down and wept.  
As soon as morning came,  
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,  
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.  
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.  
Pilate questioned him,  
“Are you the king of the Jews?”  
He said to him in reply, “You say so.”  
The chief priests accused him of many things.  
Again Pilate questioned him,  
“Have you no answer?  
See how many things they accuse you of.”  
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.  
Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them  
one prisoner whom they requested.  
A man called Barabbas was then in prison  
along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion.  
The crowd came forward and began to ask him  
to do for them as he was accustomed.  
Pilate answered,  
“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”  
For he knew that it was out of envy  
that the chief priests had handed him over.  
But the chief priests stirred up the crowd  
to have him release Barabbas for them instead.  
Pilate again said to them in reply,  
“Then what do you want me to do  
with the man you call the king of the Jews?”

They shouted again, "Crucify him."  
Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"  
They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him."  
So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd,  
released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged,  
handed him over to be crucified.  
The soldiers led him away inside the palace,  
that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort.  
They clothed him in purple and,  
weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him.  
They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!"  
and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him.  
They knelt before him in homage.  
And when they had mocked him,  
they stripped him of the purple cloak,  
dressed him in his own clothes,  
and led him out to crucify him.  
They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon,  
a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country,  
the father of Alexander and Rufus,  
to carry his cross.  
They brought him to the place of Golgotha  
— which is translated Place of the Skull —  
They gave him wine drugged with myrrh,  
but he did not take it.  
Then they crucified him and divided his garments  
by casting lots for them to see what each should take.  
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.  
The inscription of the charge against him read,  
"The King of the Jews."  
With him they crucified two revolutionaries,  
one on his right and one on his left.  
Those passing by reviled him,  
shaking their heads and saying,  
"Aha! You who would destroy the temple  
and rebuild it in three days,  
save yourself by coming down from the cross."  
Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes,  
mocked him among themselves and said,

“He saved others; he cannot save himself.

Let the Christ, the King of Israel,  
come down now from the cross  
that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”

which is translated,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

“Look, he is calling Elijah.”

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed  
and gave it to him to drink saying,

“Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Here all bow and pause for a short time.*

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him  
saw how he breathed his last he said,

“Truly this man was the Son of God!”

There were also women looking on from a distance.

Among them were Mary Magdalene,

Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome.

These women had followed him when he was in Galilee  
and ministered to him.

There were also many other women  
who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When it was already evening,

since it was the day of preparation,

the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea,

a distinguished member of the council,

who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God,

came and courageously went to Pilate

and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was amazed that he was already dead.

He summoned the centurion

and asked him if Jesus had already died.

And when he learned of it from the centurion,  
he gave the body to Joseph.  
Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down,  
wrapped him in the linen cloth,  
and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.  
Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.  
Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph  
watched where he was laid.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The message of the liturgy in proclaiming the passion narratives in full is to enable the assembly to see vividly the love of Christ for each person, despite their sins, a love that even death could not vanquish. The crimes during the Passion of Christ cannot be attributed indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to as though rejected or cursed, as if this view followed from Scripture. The Church ever keeps in mind that Jesus, his mother Mary, and the apostles all were Jewish. As the Church has always held, Christ freely suffered his passion and death because of the sins of all, that all might be saved.— *Statement on the Liturgical Proclamation of the Passion, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, quoted on the Archdiocese of Boston website*

## **HOMILY**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

## **OFFERTORY**

Lacrimosa

*Weeping will accompany that day when humanity will arise from the ashes for judgment. Therefore, spare us, O God. Gentle Jesus, grant them rest.*

## **PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS AND ALTAR**

### **INVITATION TO PRAYER**

Presider: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.**

## **PREFACE DIALOGUE**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right and just.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS**

### **Holy**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

### **Memorial Acclamation**

*When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.*

### **Great Amen**

*Amen.*

### **Lamb of God**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

## **FRACTION RITE**

Presider: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## **COMMUNION**

### **Perdona a Tu Pueblo**

*Forgive your people, Lord.  
For your deep cruel wounds,  
For your thorns and your bitter afflictions, forgive them Lord.  
For your wounded hands and feet,  
For your whippings, so inhumane, forgive them Lord.  
For the three nails that pierced you,  
and the thorns that pierced you, forgive them Lord.*

## POST-COMMUNION

*The Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart, soloist*

Were You There?

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

*Were you there when they pierced him in the side?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

*Were you there when they rolled the stone away?*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*

## RECESSIONAL

Lift High the Cross

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim*

*Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians follow where our Savior trod,*

*Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.*

*Led on their way by this triumphant sign,*

*The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.*

*Each newborn servant of the Crucified*

*Bears on the brow the seal of him who died.*

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