***Introit (Psalm 24)***

P: Bless the man coming in the name of the Lord!

C: Here in the Lord’s house, we bless you!

P: Jerusalem gates, look up! Ancient doors, open!

**C: Let the King of Glory enter!**

P: Who is the King of Glory?

**C: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord powerful in war.**

P: Jerusalem gates, look up! Ancient doors, open!

**C: Let the King of Glory enter!**

P: Who is this King of Glory?

**C: The Lord of Armies, He is the King of Glory!**

P: Bless the man coming in the name of the Lord!

C: Here in the Lord’s house, we bless you!

**All: Glory give to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the same as it was in the beginning, is now, and will continue forever. Amen.**

***Prayer for God’s Word***

P: Almighty and eternal God, You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to become a man and suffer death on a cross. Why? You want to save us, and You want us to see Jesus humble. Please make us follow Jesus; make us humble and patient. In the end, make us rise alive with Jesus. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

*This is the reading about Jesus coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Some churches will read this at the beginning of the service.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 11.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

 Jesus and the disciples came near Jerusalem. First, they came to the towns BETHPHAGE and BETHANY. Jesus sent two disciples and told them, “Enter the town. When you enter it, you will see a COLT tied up. No one before has ridden that COLT. Untie the COLT and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ you tell them, ‘The Lord needs the COLT and soon will give it back.’”

 The two disciples went and found a COLT in the street, tied up near a door. They untied the COLT, and some people asked, “Why are you doing that?” The disciples answered the same-as Jesus said. The people let them go.

 The disciples brought the COLT to Jesus. They put their coats on the COLT, and Jesus sat on it.

 In-front-of Jesus, many people laid-down their coats on the road. Other people cut branches and laid-them on the road.

 People in-front-of Jesus and behind Jesus shouted, “Praise God! Lord, save us! Bless Him coming in the name of the Lord! Bless the coming kingdom of our father DAVID! Lord in heaven, save us!”

 Jesus entered JERUSALEM and went to the temple. He looked around and saw everything. Now it was late, so Jesus and the 12 disciples left and went out to the town of BETHANY.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.

The Old Testament lesson is from Zechariah chapter 9.

 Children of JERUSALEM, rejoice much! Children of JERUSALEM, shout! Look, your king comes to you. He is righteous and He brings salvation. He is humble and rides on a donkey. He rides on a young donkey.

 God says, I will take-away war chariots from EPHRAIM, and I will take-away war horses from JERUSALEM. I will destroy the bow-and-arrow for war. He will announce peace for the nations. He will reign all-over from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.

 I will free your prisoners from the dry PIT. Why? Because of My promise in blood for you. You are prisoners in hope. Go again to your strong city. Today I announce that I will give you double blessing.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Philippians chapter 2.

 You should have this attitude, the same-as Christ Jesus’ attitude. Jesus Himself is true God and equal with God; but Jesus didn’t hold-on to that. Jesus made Himself nothing. He became a servant and He was-born same-as a true man. Jesus became human, He humbled Himself and obeyed God. He obeyed until death, even dying on the cross. That is why God lifted-up Jesus to the highest place. God gave Jesus the name above all other names. Everyone will honor Jesus’ name and bow-down, all people in heaven and on earth and under the earth. And everyone will announce that Jesus Christ is Lord. This gives glory to God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are three choices for the Gospel reading. Choose one.*

* *The longest reading is Mark chapters 14 and 15, about the Passover and Lord’s Supper, Jesus getting arrested, the trial, crucifixion and death.*
* *A shorter reading about Jesus’ suffering and death is Mark 15.*
* *Another reading is in John 12:20-43, where Jesus said He will die and rise alive.*

*The longer reading about Jesus getting arrested and crucified.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapters 14 and 15.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

 This happened two days before PASSOVER and the celebration named UNLEAVENED (flat) BREAD. The reigning priests and law teachers wanted to secretly arrest Jesus and kill Him. But they said, “Don’t do that during the celebration, or the people will become angry.”

 Jesus was in the town named BETHANY, visiting a man named SIMON the LEPER. Jesus was sitting at the table. A woman came-in with a perfume jar, pure NARD, a very expensive perfume. She broke-open the jar and poured perfume on Jesus’ head.

 Some people were upset and said, “Why waste that perfume? We could sell the perfume for much money and give to the poor!” They told the woman she was wrong to do that.

 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why bother her? She did a beautiful thing to honor Me. Poor people will always be with you. You can do good for them any time you want. But I will not always be with you. She did what she could do. She anointed My body before I get buried. I tell you the truth, any place in the world people preach the Gospel, people will say what she did and remember her.”

 The JUDAS ISCARIOT, one of the twelve disciples, he went to the reigning priests and agreed to give-them Jesus. The priests were happy and promised to pay him money. Then JUDAS looked-for a time to betray Jesus.

 On the first day for UNLEAVENED (flat) BREAD, the same day people sacrificed the lamb for PASSOVER, Jesus’ disciples asked, “Where do You want us to prepare the PASSOVER for You?”

 Jesus sent two disciples and said, “Go into the city. A man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him. When he enters a house, tell the house master, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is the visitor room where I can eat the PASSOVER with My disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, ready for us. Prepare there.” The disciples went into the city. Everything happened the same-as Jesus said, and they prepared the PASSOVER.

 That evening, Jesus and the disciples arrived. They sat at the table and ate. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me, you will betray Me.”

 The disciples were very sad and each one said, “You mean me?”

 Jesus said, “One of you twelve disciples, the one taking bread and dipping in the bowl with Me. The Son of Man will go the same-as the Bible says. But terrible for that man who betrays the Son of Man! Better for him if he was never born.”

 While they ate, Jesus took bread, blessed that, and He broke the bread and gave to His disciples. He said, “Take this, this is My body.” And He took the cup. He thanked God, then He gave to them and they all drank from it. He said, “This is My blood of promise, poured-out for many people. I tell you the truth, I will not drink this wine again until that day I drink this in a new way in the kingdom of God.”

 They all sang together, then they went to the MOUNT of OLIVES. Jesus told the disciples, “You will all lose faith, because the Bible says, ‘I will hit the shepherd and the sheep will run-away.’ But after I rise alive, I will go to meet you in GALILEE.”

 Peter said, “No-matter they all lose faith, I will not.”

 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. Tonight, before the rooster crows two times, you will say three times you don’t know Me.”

 Peter said again, “If I have to die with you, I will not say I don’t know You.” All the disciples said the same.

 They went to a place named GETHSEMANE. Jesus told the disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” Jesus took PETER, JAMES, and JOHN with Him. Jesus became very sad and upset. He said, “My soul is very sad, sad enough to die. Stay here and watch.”

 Jesus went away a little. He laid on the ground and prayed, if possible, that suffering might not happen. Jesus said, “ABBA, Father, You can do all things. Take-away this suffering. But not what I want, do what You want.” Jesus came back to the disciples and saw them sleeping. Jesus asked Peter, “Are you asleep? You can’t watch one hour? Watch and pray that you don’t get tempted. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

 Again Jesus went away and prayed the same. He came again to the disciples and saw them sleeping, because they were tired. They didn’t know what to say. Jesus prayed and came again a third time. He said, “You continue sleeping and resting? Enough! The time is now. The Son of Man gets betrayed and goes to sinners. Get up, let’s go. See, the one betraying Me is here.”

 While Jesus was speaking, the disciple JUDAS came. A large group of people with swords and clubs were with him. They came from the reigning priests and law teachers and leaders. JUDAS told them, “The man you want, I will kiss Him. Arrest Him and let the soldiers take Him away.” JUDAS went to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” And he kissed Jesus. Then the people arrested Jesus.

 But one disciple used his sword and hit the high priest’s servant and cut-off his ear. Jesus said, “You arrest Me the same as a thief? You use swords and clubs to arrest Me? Every day, I taught in the temple with you, and you didn’t arrest Me. But the Bible words will happen.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran-away.

 A young man followed Jesus. His only clothes were a LINEN cloth. The soldiers grabbed him, but he left the clothes and ran-away naked.

 They took Jesus to the high priest. All the reigning priests, the leaders and the law teachers met together. PETER followed them and went into the yard. He sat with the soldiers near a fire to keep warm. The reigning priests and the council wanted witnesses against Jesus, then they could kill Him. But they couldn’t find witnesses. Many false witnesses came, but their stories didn’t agree. Some people stood and gave this false story: “We heard Jesus say, ‘I will destroy this temple that people made. In three days, I will build another temple that people don’t make.’” But their stories didn’t agree.

 The high priest stood and asked Jesus, “You say nothing? What do these men say about You?” Jesus said nothing. The high priest asked again, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed God?”

 Jesus said, “I am. You will see the Son of Man sitting near the right hand of God’s power. And you will see Him come on the clouds of heaven.”

 The high priest tore his robes and said, “We don’t need more witnesses! You heard Him insult God. What is your decision?” They all said Jesus deserved death. Some people spit on Jesus, they covered His face, they hit Him and said, “Prophesy!” The soldiers also hit Him.

 PETER was in the yard. One servant girl saw PETER near the fire. She looked-at-him and said, “You were with Jesus from NAZARETH.”

 PETER said, “I don’t understand what you mean.” He went to the entrance, and a rooster crowed.

 The servant girl saw him again. She told the people there, “This man follows Jesus.” Again, PETER denied that. Later, one person said to PETER, “You are with Jesus, because you are from GALILEE.”

 PETER began to curse and swear. He said, “I don’t know that man!” Then the rooster crowed a second time. PETER remembered that Jesus said, “Before the rooster crows two times, you will say three times you don’t know Me.” Then PETER cried bitterly.

 In the morning the reigning priests had a meeting with the older Jewish leaders, the Law teachers, and Jewish reigning council. The soldiers tied Jesus and led Jesus away. They gave Jesus to PILATE, the governor.

 PILATE asked Jesus, “Are You King of Jews?” Jesus said, “Yes, you say that.”

 The reigning priests blamed Jesus of many things. Again, PILATE asked Jesus, “You answer nothing? Look, they blame You much!” Jesus said nothing. PILATE was surprised.

 Every-year during PASSOVER celebration, the governor will free one person from jail. The governor freed any person all the people wanted free.

 There were many people in jail. One man named BARABBAS was in jail because he rebelled against the government and killed a man.

 The people asked PILATE to free one man same-as in the past. PILATE knew the Jewish priests were jealous of Jesus. That is why they wanted Jesus to die. So PILATE asked the people, “You want me to free the King of the Jews?”

 But the reigning priests told the people to ask for BARABBAS freed, not Jesus. PILATE asked, “This man you name King of the Jews, what should I do with Him?”

 The people shouted, “Crucify Him!”

 PILATE asked, “Why? What wrong Jesus do?” But the people shouted louder, “Crucify Him!”

 PILATE wanted to make the people happy. He freed BARABBAS. Then he told the soldiers to whip Jesus and then take Jesus out to kill Jesus on the cross.

 The soldiers brought Jesus into the governor's house and called all the soldiers together. They put-on Jesus a purple coat. They made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus’ head. Then they laughed at Jesus and said, “Hello, king of the Jews!” The soldiers abused Jesus. They used a wood stick to hit His head, they spit on Him, they knelt down and pretended to worship Jesus. When they finished, they took-off the purple coat and put Jesus’ own clothes on Him again. Then they led Jesus out to kill Him on the cross.

 Now a man from the city named CYRENE came walking into town. His name was SIMON, he had two sons ALEXANDER and RUFUS. The soldiers forced SIMON to carry Jesus’ cross.

 They led Jesus to the place GOLGOTHA. That means SKULL. The soldiers gave Jesus a wine drink mixed with medicine MYRRH, but Jesus didn’t drink that. The soldiers nailed-the-hands to the cross. Then they divided Jesus’ clothes and threw-dice to decide which clothes they win.

 The soldiers crucified Jesus at 9:00 a.m. A sign on the cross said why they crucified Him. The sign said, “The King of the Jews.” They also crucified two robbers, Jesus in the center, one robber on the right and one robber on the left.

 People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. They shook-their-heads and said, “Ha! You can destroy the temple and build that in three days. Save Yourself! Come-down from the cross!”

 The reigning priests and Law teachers stood there and mocked Jesus and said, “He saved other people, but He can’t save Himself. If He is the Christ, the King of Israel, then come-down from the cross now. We will see this and believe in Him.” The robbers also spoke bad things against Jesus.

 At noon, the whole country became dark and continued dark until 3:00 pm. At 3:00 pm Jesus shouted, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI!” That means, "My God, My God, why do You leave Me alone?”

 Some people standing there heard and said, “Listen! He is calling-out to ELIJAH.”

 One man ran and got a SPONGE and filled that with vinegar. He put-it-on-a-stick and gave it to Jesus to drink. The man said, “Wait now and see if ELIJAH will come to take-HIM-down from the cross.” Then Jesus shouted and died.

 Happened that Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore-in-half from the top to the bottom. The soldier captain standing there saw how Jesus died. He said, “True, this man was the Son of God!”

 Some women stood away and watched. The women were MARY MAGDALENE, MARY the mother of young JAMES and JOSES, and SALOME. Before, when Jesus lived in GALILEE, the women followed Jesus and served Him. Also many more women came to Jerusalem with Jesus.

 That Friday was a time to get ready for a special worship day on Saturday. Now Friday evening, JOSEPH from ARIMATHEA bravely went to PILATE and asked to get Jesus’ body. JOSEPH himself belonged to the Jewish reigning council, and many people respected him. He also looked-for God’s kingdom.

 PILATE was-surprised Jesus already died. PILATE asked the soldier captain if Jesus already died. The soldier captain said He died. Then PILATE let JOSEPH take Jesus’ body.

 JOSEPH bought a LINEN cloth. He took-down Jesus’ body from the cross. He used the cloth and wrapped the body. He laid Jesus in a tomb cut-out in rock. Then he rolled a stone to cover the tomb entrance. MARY MAGDALENE and MARY the mother of JOSES saw where JOSEPH laid Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.

*This is a shorter reading of Jesus’ suffering and death.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 15.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.

*This is a shorter reading, Jesus says He will die and rise alive.*

The Gospel is from John chapter 12.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

Some Greek people came to worship at the PASSOVER celebration. The Greek people went to PHILIP and said, “We want to see Jesus.” PHILIP was from the city BETHSAIDA in GALILEE. PHILIP went and told ANDREW. They both went and told Jesus.

Jesus said, “Now is the time for the Son of Man to receive glory. I tell you the truth. If a SEED doesn’t fall into the ground and die, then it stays only one seed. But if that SEED dies, then that grows much food.

Anyone loving his-own life will lose his life. But anyone hating his life in this world will keep eternal life. Anyone serving Me must follow Me, and the place I go My servant goes-there too. Anyone serving Me, the Father will honor him.

Now My heart feels troubled. What should I say? Father, save Me? No! This is why I came. Father, give glory to Your name.” Then a voice spoke from heaven, “I give glory to My name, and I will give glory again.”

The people standing there heard that but they thought that was thunder. Some people said, “An angel spoke to Jesus.”

But Jesus said, “That voice spoke to help you, not Me. Now is the time God will judge the world. Now I will throw-out the devil ruling this world. When I get lifted up above the earth, I will pull all people to Me. “ Jesus said that to show His death will happen on a cross.

 The people said, “The Law says the Christ will live forever. Why do You say the Son of Man will get lifted up? Who is the Son of Man?”

 Jesus said, “The light is with you a short time. Walk while you have the light. Or darkness will defeat you. The person walking in the dark doesn’t know where he is going. You have the light. Believe in the light, then you can become sons belonging to light.”

 After Jesus said that, He left and hid from the people. Jesus gave them many proofs, but they didn’t believe in Him. That showed the prophecy from ISAIAH was true. ISAIAH said, “Lord, who believed our message? Who sees the Lord’s powerful work?”

 That is why the people couldn’t believe. ISAIAH also said this: “He made their eyes blind and their hearts hard. Then their eyes can’t see and their hearts can’t understand. Then they can’t repent and can’t have God’s healing.”

 ISAIAH said that because he saw Jesus’ glory and talked about Him. But many of the Jewish leaders did believe in Jesus. But they were afraid of the PHARISEES and kept their faith a secret. They didn’t want the Jews to force them out of the Jewish church. They loved attention from people more than they loved God’s glory.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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