***Introit (Psalm 24)***

P: Bless the Man who comes in the name of the Lord!

C: From the Lord’s house, we bless You!

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

C: Then the King of Glory can come in.

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: Then the King of Glory can come in.

P: Who is the King of Glory?

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

**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 the Father, You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to become a man and suffer death on a cross. In Your mercy, make us follow Jesus; make us humble and patient the same-as Him. 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.

The Old Testament lesson is from Deuteronomy chapter 32.

 The Lord will judge His people. When He sees their strength is gone and there is no strong person, then He will show mercy to His servants. The Lord will say, “Where are their gods? Where is the rock where they find safety? They gave food and wine sacrifices to other gods. Where are those gods? Let those gods come help you! Let those gods protect you!”

 “Look! I am the only God! There is no other god. I kill and I give life. I give hurt and I give healing. No one can steal you from My hand.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson 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 many choices for the Gospel reading.*

* *The normal reading is Luke 23 or 22&23, about Jesus’ suffering and death.*
* *A shorter reading is in John 12, where Jesus said He will die and rise alive.*
* *Some churches will use the story about Jesus riding into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) in Luke 19.*
* *Some churches will read Luke 19 at the beginning of the service to celebrate Palm Sunday, then read one of the other lessons later in the service.*

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

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapters 22 and 23.

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

Now was the time for the Feast of Not-raised Bread, also named PASSOVER. The reigning priests and law teachers were looking-for a way to kill Jesus, because they were afraid of the people.

Satan entered JUDAS ISCARIOT. JUDAS was one of the twelve disciples. JUDAS went and met with the reigning priests and leaders to talk about how he could give Jesus to them. They were happy and agreed to pay JUDAS. JUDAS agreed and looked-for a time to betray Jesus and the people will not see that happen.

Then happened the day named UNLEAVENED (flat) Bread. On that day, the Jews sacrificed the PASSOVER lamb. Jesus sent PETER and JOHN and said, “Go and prepare the PASSOVER for us, then we can eat it.”

PETER and JOHN asked, “Where?”

Jesus said, “Go into the city. A man carrying a water jar will meet you. Follow him. He will enter a house. You go into the house and tell the master, ‘The Teacher asks, where is the room where I can eat the PASSOVER with My disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs ready for you. Prepare the PASSOVER there.” PETER and JOHN went and found the room the same-as Jesus said, and they prepared the PASSOVER.

That evening, Jesus was at the table and the apostles were with Jesus. Jesus said, “I truly wanted to eat this PASSOVER with you before I suffer. I tell you, I will not eat this meal again until it fully happens in God’s kingdom.” Jesus took a cup, He gave thanks and said, “Take this and each of you drink. I tell you, from now on I will not drink wine again until the kingdom of God comes.”

Jesus took bread, He gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them and said, “This is My body, given for you. Do this to remember Me.” The same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup is poured out for you. This is the new promise in My blood. But look, the person who will betray Me is here at the table with Me. The Son of Man will go the same-as God planned. But terrible for the person who betrays Me!” The disciples began asking each-other who will betray Jesus.

The disciples began arguing about who was the greatest. Jesus said, “The non-Jewish kings reign over people. Their people with authority say people depend on them. But you don’t do that. The greatest person should become the same-as a young person. And the leader should become a servant. Who is greater? The person eating, or the person serving? The person eating is greater, right? But I am serving you.”

“You stayed with Me through My troubles. My Father gave Me a kingdom, and I give to you the kingdom. Then you can eat and drink with Me in My kingdom. You will sit on thrones and judge the twelve families of Israel.”

“SIMON, SIMON, Satan wants to get you and test you. I prayed for you, that your faith will not fail. When you repent, then make strong your brothers.”

PETER said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with You and die with You.”

Jesus said, “PETER, before the rooster shouts today, three times you will say you don’t know Me.”

Jesus said to the disciples, “I sent you to preach, and you had no bag for money or shoes or other things. Did you miss anything?”

They answered, “No, nothing.”

Jesus said, “But now, if you have a bag for money, take it. If you have a bag for clothes, take it. If you don’t have a sword, then sell your coat and buy a sword. I tell you, this Bible verse will happen to Me, ‘He was counted with the sinners.’ What the Bible says about Me will happen.”

The disciples said, “Lord, look! We have two swords.”

Jesus said, “That is enough.”

 Jesus went to the MOUNT of OLIVES, the same-as He often did, and His disciples went with Him. When He arrived, He said, “Pray that you will not get tempted.” Then Jesus went away a short distance. He kneeled and prayed, “Father, if You want, take-away this suffering. But not what I want. Make Your wants happen.” An angel came from heaven to Him and gave Him strength. Jesus was suffering and He prayed more seriously. His sweat was the same as blood dripping on the ground. Jesus finished praying. He went again to the disciples and saw them sleeping. Jesus said, “Why are you sleeping? Stand up and pray that you will not get tempted.”

 While Jesus was speaking, a crowd of people came. JUDAS, one of the twelve disciples, led the group. JUDAS came to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said, “JUDAS, you will betray the Son of Man with a kiss? Jesus’ disciples saw what was happening and they said, “Lord, should we use our sword to fight?” One disciple hit the high priest’s servant and cut-off his right ear. Jesus said, “No more!” Then Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed him.

 Then Jesus asked the reigning priests and temple officers and leaders, “You came with swords and clubs, the same-as you will arrest a robber? I was with you many days in the temple, but you didn’t touch Me. But now is your time, and now the dark is powerful.”

 Then the group arrested Jesus and took Him away to the high priest’s house. PETER followed them from a distance. The people started a fire outside the house and sat down around the fire. PETER also sat with them. Then a servant girl saw PETER in the fire light and said, “This man was with Jesus!” But PETER denied and said, “Woman, I don’t know Him.”

 A little later, another person saw PETER and said, “Yes, you are with Jesus’ group.” PETER said, “Man, I am not.”

 An hour later, another person said, “Yes, this man was with Jesus. This man is also from Galilee.” But PETER said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” While PETER was speaking, the rooster shouted. Jesus turned and looked at PETER. Then PETER remembered what the Lord said. Earlier, Jesus said, “Before the rooster shouts today, three times you will deny Me.” PETER went away and cried much.

 The soldiers with Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. They put a blindfold on Him and continued asking, “Prophesy! Who hit You?” They said many other insults against Him.

 When the sun was rising, the leaders of the people met together with the reigning priests and law teachers. The group met together and said to Jesus, “If You are the Christ, then tell us.”

 But Jesus said, “If I tell you, then you will not believe. If I ask you a question, you will not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will sit near the right hand of God’s power.”

 They asked, “Then You are the Son of God?”

 Jesus said, “You say that I am.”

 They said, “We don’t need more witnesses! We ourselves heard Him say it!”

Then all the people stood-up and led Jesus to PILATE. The people blamed Jesus and told PILATE, “We heard this Man confusing the people. He told them don't pay taxes to the Roman king, and He names Himself the Christ, a king.”

PILATE asked Jesus, “Are you king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Yes, that is correct.”

PILATE told the priests and the people, “I find nothing wrong with this Man.”

The people said, “But Jesus makes trouble with the people! He teaches all over the country, beginning in GALILEE, and now He is here!”

PILATE heard that and asked if Jesus came from GALILEE. PILATE found that Jesus was under the reign of king HEROD and king HEROD was-visiting JERUSALEM now, so PILATE sent Jesus to king HEROD. When HEROD saw Jesus, he was very happy, because he heard many stories about Jesus and wanted to see Jesus do a wonderful work. HEROD asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus answered nothing. The reigning priests and Law teachers stood there and shouted against Jesus. Then HEROD and his soldiers laughed at Jesus, and they made fun by dressing Jesus in clothes same-as a king. Then HEROD sent Jesus again to PILATE. In the past, PILATE and HEROD always were-enemies, but now they became friends.

PILATE called all the people together with the reigning priests and Law teachers. PILATE told them, “You brought Jesus to me. You said JESUS made trouble among the people. But I judged and found nothing wrong. Jesus is not guilty of all the things you said. Also, king HEROD found nothing wrong with HIM, and he sent Jesus again to me. See, Jesus did nothing wrong. He must not die. I will punish Him, and then I will free Him.”

But all the people shouted, “Kill Him! Let BARABBAS free.” BARABBAS was in jail because he rebelled against the leaders and he killed some people.

PILATE wanted to free Jesus. Again PILATE told them that Jesus will go free. But the people shouted again, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” A third time PILATE said to the people, “Why? What wrong did Jesus do? He is not to blame. I find no reason to kill Him. I will punish Jesus and then free Him.”

But the people continued shouting. They demanded that Jesus must die on the cross. Their shouting became so loud that PILATE decided to do what they said. BARABBAS was in prison for rebelling and murder, but PILATE let him go free. PILATE gave Jesus to get crucified, because the people wanted that.

The soldiers led Jesus to the place for crucifixion. That same time a man named SIMON from the city named CYRENE came into town. The soldiers forced SIMON to carry the cross for Jesus. Many people followed them, and some of the women were sad and crying for Jesus. But Jesus said to the women, “Women from JERUSALEM, don’t cry for Me. Cry for yourselves and for your children! The time will happen that people say, ‘Happy are women without babies! Happy are women with no children and never nursed babies.’ Then people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ And people will say to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ If people do these things when life is here, what will happen when life is gone?”

Two law-breakers also went to die with Jesus. They all came to the place named “The Skull.” Then the soldiers crucified Jesus and the two law-breakers. One man was-crucified on the right, and one crucified on the left, with Jesus in the center.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive these people because they don’t-know what they are-doing.” The soldiers threw-dice to decide who got Jesus’ clothes. The people stood and watched Jesus. The Jewish leaders laughed and said, “If HE is the Christ, God’s chosen One, then let Him save Himself.” Also the soldiers mocked Jesus. They offered some wine to Jesus and said, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” A sign above Jesus’ head said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One law-breaker insulted Jesus and said, “You are the Christ, right? Then save yourself and us!”

But the other law-breaker corrected him and said, “You don’t honor God? You are getting punished, also. You and I are wrong; we deserve to get-killed because we did wrong. But Jesus did nothing wrong!” Then the law-breaker said to Jesus, “Jesus, remember me when You enter Your kingdom!”

Then Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth. Today you will be with Me in heaven!”

The time was now 12 noon and darkness covered the earth until time three in the afternoon. The sun stopped shining. The curtain in the temple tore-in-half. Jesus shouted, "Father, into Your hands I give My spirit.” Then Jesus died.

The Roman soldier captain saw how everything happened. He praised God and said, “Truly this Man was innocent!” Many people came to see the crucifixion, but after these things happened they felt sad and began leaving for home. Jesus’ close friends and some of the women from GALILEE stood and watched everything happen.

A Jewish man named JOSEPH was from the town named ARIMATHEA. He was on the Jewish ruling council. But he was a good and righteous man, and he didn’t agree with their decision to kill Jesus. JOSEPH was waiting for God’s kingdom. He went to PILATE and asked permission to get Jesus’ body. Then he took Jesus’ body from the cross. He wrapped the body in a LINEN cloth and laid Jesus in a tomb. That tomb was new and cut out of rock. No other person was buried there. That day was named the Day of Preparing, and soon it will be the worship day. The women from GALILEE who followed Jesus, they saw the tomb and where JOSEPH put Jesus’ body. Then they went home and prepared SPICES and perfume for His body. On the worship day, they obeyed God’s commandment and they rested.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

The Gospel is from Luke chapter 23.

People: (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.

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

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

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

Any person loving his life will lose his life. But any person hating his life in this world will keep his life in heaven. Any person serving Me must follow Me, and the place I go, My servant goes-there also. If you serve Me, the Father will honor you.

Now My heart feels troubled. What should I say? Father, save Me? No! I came to suffer this now. 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 the voice but they said 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 for God to judge the world. Now God will throw-out the devil. Happen people put Me on the cross, I will pull all people to Me.” Jesus said that to show how He will die.

The people asked Jesus, “We heard that the law says the Christ will live forever. Why do you say the Son of Man must die on a cross? Who is the Son of Man?”

Jesus said, “The light is with you a little longer. Walk while you have the light, or the darkness will defeat you. A person walking in the dark can’t see where he is going. While you have the light, you should believe in the light. Then you can become sons belonging to the light.”

After Jesus said that, He left and hid. In the past, Jesus gave them many proofs, but they still didn’t believe in Him. That showed the words from the prophet ISAIAH were 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, “He made their eyes blind and their hearts hard. He did that so their eyes can’t see, their hearts can’t understand. Then they can’t repent and can’t have God’s healing.”

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*This is the reading about Jesus coming into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.*

The Gospel is from Luke chapter 19.

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

 Jesus went up to JERUSALEM. When He came near the MOUNT of OLIVES and the towns named BETHPHAGE and BETHANY, Jesus sent two disciples ahead. Jesus told them, “Go to the next town. When you enter it, you will see a COLT (young donkey) tied up there. No one rode that COLT before. Untie it and bring it here. If someone asks you, ‘Why are you untying the COLT?’ tell them, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

 The two disciples went ahead, entered the town, and found the COLT the same as Jesus said. They untied it and the owners asked, “Why are you untying the COLT?” The disciples answered, “The Lord needs it.”

 The disciples brought the COLT to Jesus. They put their coats on it and Jesus sat on it. Jesus went down the road and people put their coats on the road in front of Jesus.

 Jesus came to the top of the MOUNT of OLIVES and started going down to JERUSALEM. All the many disciples began praising God with joy and shouts, because they saw all the miracles Jesus did. They said, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace and glory in heaven!”

 Some PHARISEES were in the crowd. They told Jesus, “Teacher, tell Your disciples to stop!”

 Jesus answered, “I tell you, if the disciples are quiet, the stones will shout.”

 When Jesus came close to JERUSALEM and saw the city, He cried and said, “I wish you knew today what can give you peace. But now that is hidden and you can’t see it. The days will happen when your enemies will surround you. They will throw you and your children on the ground. They will destroy these buildings and not leave one stone on another stone. Why? Because you didn’t recognize when God is coming to you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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