

PARISH OF LATHERON

ORDER OF SERVICE – PALM/PASSION SUNDAY 28th MARCH 2021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

374 FROM HEAVEN YOU CAME

1. From heav'n You came, helpless Babe
Entered our world, Your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live
Chorus:

*This is our God, the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King*

2. There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not my will but Yours,' He said

3. Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

4. So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 11: 1-11:

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the

colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!^[a]" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

REFLECTION

HYMN 365 RIDE ON, ON, RIDE ON

- 1 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments
strowed.
- 2 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 15:1-20:

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

2 "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied.

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. **4** So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

5 But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

9 "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

12 "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

13 "Crucify him!" they shouted.

14 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN 380 THERE IS A GREEN HILL

1 There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

3 He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

4 There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

5 Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 15: 21-41:

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: The King Of The Jews. ²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. [28] [a] ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!" ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. ³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). ³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen,

he's calling Elijah." ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. ³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

REFLECTION 2

HYMN 392 WHEN I SURVEY

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

PRAYER/BENEDICTION

REFLECTION – UNDER THE CROSS

What is this Cross? – That we surround ourselves with, from Birth – baptized with the Cross crowning us
Through Life – when fear or sickness assaults us we draw its protective sign (arms) around to guard us
While in Life's journey it goes before and guides us with each new venture – be it a solemn marriage or uncertain steps through the worlds many mazes, the Cross is always there to bless us and when in eternal sleep our eyes we close, we commit our Soul to God and seal it with its sign.
We are born under its shadow and however far we might wander, weary or worn, we always return to its enfolding arms to find our peace and rest.
Yet, do we realize its significance while we live? Is the Cross just a symbol or is it our way of life? Of what use, is all this talk of carrying the Cross if we bear its burden only for worldly rewards – Some paltry name, fame or some fringe benefits?
What is a Cross without Christ?
It would have remained a symbol of punishment, a piece of wood, an instrument of law, the face of Death seen by a murderer, a thief or a rebel against society – political or religious.
Are we also not one of these?
Do we not murder men –
When we break their hopes
When we stab in the back
With malicious gossip out of pitiful envy!
Do we not thief –
When we desire what is not ours
When we waste somebody's time - Their life!
Are we not rebels too –
All of us at heart sometimes, somewhere
Whether it is against ideas
Norms or even people!
This Tree of Justice, this Cross –
If judged, we would have been condemned too -
found guilty and sentenced to hang upon till death.
But, with Christ, this same piece of wood, this Cross is transformed into an instrument of Love Divine, the Hope of Life Eternal it offers to all sinners repentant. This piece of wood, this Cross, which we all love and cling to which shows the way to Freedom and Life – All because, this piece of wood, this Cross was the portal through which Christ stepped into the jaws of Death and victorious brought forth Eternal Life for us.
Oh! Cross of Shame! Cross of Agony and pain!
To me, thou art the Tree of Hope and Life!
(Angelina Pandian)