**Transcript Palm Sunday - March 28th 2021**

**Introduction and Welcome - Rev Mark Poole**

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. May God’s grace, mercy and peace be with you.

My name is Mark Poole, and I am the curate of this benefice which comprises the four parishes of Dunnington, Holtby, Warthill and Stockton on the Forest to the east of York. Whether you live amongst us or join us from other parts of the country or the world, it is our joy that you are sharing with us online or over the telephone.

We gather in this way on Palm Sunday to mark the beginning of Holy Week. I pray that this time together will help you to reflect on the mystery of Christ’s passion and be a source of rich blessing.

The format will depart from our usual and what will follow is a dramatized telling of some of the events of Holy Week according to Mark’s Gospel. It starts with Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ends with his body being laid in a tomb. The drama will be interspersed with music and prayer.

**Let us pray the Collect, the special prayer for today:**

True and humble king,

hailed by the crowd as Messiah:

grant us the faith to know you and love you,

that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross,

which is the path of glory.

**Amen**.

**Palm Sunday**

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| Mark: | Hear the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. |
| Mark: | A few days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread, Jesus approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. He sent two of his disciples ahead, saying to them: |
| Jesus: | 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. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’ |
| Mark: | They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked: |
| Passerby | What are you doing, untying that colt? |
| Mark: | They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted: |
| Crowd | Hosannah!  Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  Hosanna in the highest heaven!  **Song ‘Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!’**    Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!    Lord, we lift up your name,  With hearts full of praise;  Be exalted, O Lord, my God!  Hosanna in the highest!  Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!  Lord, we lift up your name,  With hearts full of praise;  Be exalted, O Lord, my God!  Glory to the King of kings!  Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!  Lord, we lift up your name,  With hearts full of praise;  Be exalted, O Lord, my God!  Hosanna in the highest! |
| Mark: | It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. Following several days of Jesus’ teaching in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; but they said, |
| Chief Priests: | Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people. |
| Mark: | While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, |
| Bystander: | Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor. |
| Mark: | And they scolded her. But Jesus said, |
| Jesus: | Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her. |
| Mark: | Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.  **Taizé: ‘O Lord hear my prayer’ (one verse)**    O Lord, hear my prayer  O Lord, hear my prayer  Come and listen to me  **Prayer**    Jesus, thank you for the woman who brought a jar of costly ointment to you and then poured the ointment on your head. Thank you for the kindness she showed you, the understanding she had of the journey you were about to undertake. We bring to you, in simplicity and love our humble offers of worship and prayer.  We also bring to you Lord, our moments of betrayal, of putting our faith into things that do not matter. Lord, we put our trust in you.  **Taizé: ‘O Lord hear my prayer’ (one verse)**    O Lord, hear my prayer  O Lord, hear my prayer  Come and listen to me  On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples said to Jesus, |
| Disciples: | Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover? |
| Mark: | So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, |
| Jesus: | Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there. |
| Mark: | So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.  When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, |
| Jesus: | Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me. |
| Mark: | They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, |
| Disciples: | Surely, not I? |
| Mark: | Jesus said to them, |
| Jesus: | It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born. |
| Mark: | While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, |
| Jesus: | Take; this is my body. |
| Mark: | Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, |
| Jesus: | This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God. |
| Mark: | When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, |
| Jesus: | You will all become deserters; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee. |
| Mark: | Peter said to him, |
| Peter: | Even though all become deserters, I will not. |
| Mark: | Jesus said to him, |
| Jesus: | Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times. |
| Mark: | But Peter said vehemently, |
| Peter: | Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you. |
| Mark: | And all of them said the same.  **Song: Eat this bread, drink this cup**  **Refrain**  Eat this Bread, drink this Cup.  Come to him and never be hungry.  Eat this Bread, drink this Cup.  Trust in him and you will not thirst.   1. Christ is the Bread of Life   The true bread sent from the Father.  **Refrain**   1. Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness   But this is the bread come down from heaven  **Refrain**  3. Eat his flesh, and drink his blood,  And this is the bread come down from heaven.  **Refrain**  4. Anyone who eats this bread  will live forever  **Refrain**  5. If we believe and eat this bread  We will have eternal life.  They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, |
| Jesus: | Sit here while I pray. |
| Mark: | He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And said to them, |
| Jesus: | I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake. |
| Mark: | And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, |
| Jesus: | Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want. |
| Mark: | Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, |
| Jesus: | Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. |
| Mark: | And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, |
| Jesus: | Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand. |
| Mark: | Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, |
| Judas: | The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard. |
| Mark: | So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, |
| Judas: | Rabbi! |
| Mark: | and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, |
| Jesus: | Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled. |
| Mark: | All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.  **Taizé: ‘O Lord hear my prayer’ (one verse)**    O Lord, hear my prayer  O Lord, hear my prayer  Come and listen to me  **Prayer**  Abba Father, there are so many things that are beyond our understanding, we attempt to follow you as the disciples did, but like the disciples, we miss the mark. Forgive us the wrongs we have done. We come to you, to listen to your voice, to follow your path. Father, we trust in you.  **Taizé: ‘O Lord hear my prayer’ (one verse)**    O Lord, hear my prayer  O Lord, hear my prayer  Come and listen to me  They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, |
| False Witness: | We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’ |
| Mark: | But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, |
| High Priest: | Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you? |
| Mark: | But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, |
| High Priest: | Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One? |
| Mark: | Jesus said, |
| Jesus: | 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.’ |
| Mark: | Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, |
| High Priest: | Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision? |
| Mark: | All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, |
| Chief Priests: | Prophesy! |
| Mark: | The guards also took him over and beat him.  While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, |
| Servant Girl: | You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth. |
| Mark: | But he denied it, saying, |
| Peter: | I do not know or understand what you are talking about. |
| Mark: | And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, |
| Servant Girl: | This man is one of them. |
| Mark: | But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, |
| Crowd: | Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean. |
| Mark: | But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, |
| Peter: | I do not know this man you are talking about. |
| Mark: | At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ And he broke down and wept. |

**Confession & Absolution**

We watch at a distance,

and are slow to follow Christ in the way of the cross.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We warm our hands by the fire,

and are afraid to be counted among his disciples.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We run away,

and fail to share the pain of Christ’s suffering.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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| Mark: | As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.Pilate asked him, |
| Pilate: | Are you the King of the Jews? |
| Mark: | Jesus answered him, |
| Jesus: | You say so. |
| Mark: | Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, |
| Pilate: | Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you. |
| Mark: | But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.  Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, |
| Pilate: | Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? |
| Mark: | For he realized that it was out of jealousy 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 spoke to them again, |
| Pilate: | Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? |
| Mark: | They shouted back, |
| Crowd: | Crucify him! |
| Mark: | Pilate asked them, |
| Pilate: | Why, what evil has he done? |
| Mark: | But they shouted all the more, |
| Crowd: | Crucify him! |
| Mark: | So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.  Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, |
| Soldiers: | Hail, King of the Jews! |
| Mark: | They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.  They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide 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.’ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, |
| Crowd: | Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross! |
| Mark: | In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, |
| Chief Priests: | He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe. |
| Mark: | Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.  **Taize ‘Jesus Remember Me’**  Jesus remember me  When you come into your Kingdom,  Jesus remember me  When you come into your Kingdom.  When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, |
| Jesus: | Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? |
| Mark: | which means, |
| Jesus: | My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? |
| Mark: | When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, |
| Crowd: | Listen, he is calling for Elijah. |
| Mark: | And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, |
| Bystander: | Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down. |
| Mark: | Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, |
| Centurion | Truly this man was God’s Son! |

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| Mark: | There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.  When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.  This is the Passion of the Lord***Silence is kept*** |

**Taize: Ubi Caritas**

Ubi caritas et amor

Ubi caritas Deus ibiest. (refrain)