



Palm Sunday

Theme: VCC at the Movies

Sermon: Working the Parade

13 April 2025

Reverend Dr. Neil Parker



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a path leading through them. The trees are mostly green, with some yellowing, suggesting early autumn. The path is a narrow dirt road that curves slightly to the right in the distance. The lighting is soft, with dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy.

PRELUDE & MEDITATION

Albinoni Trio Sonata op 1 no 1: Allegro

Tomasz Pietak, Elizabeth Koyama, Tiffany Choi,
Jinseok Jeong

WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING HYMN -

Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went
Our praise and love and anthems
Before Thee we present

Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's royal Son
Who in the Lord's name comest
The King and Blessed One

To Thee, before Thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise
To Thee, now high exalted
Our melody we raise

Thou didst accept their praises
Accept the love we bring
Who in all good delightest
Thou good and gracious King

All glory, laud, and honor
To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring

PASSING OF THE PEACE



SPECIAL
PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Read by Tony Wrixton

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”...

Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God,

and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal
procession

up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19: 28-40

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and 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 untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “The Lord needs it.” They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.

RESPONSIVE READING

Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 23: 1-49

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.” So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.” On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.

He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion.

I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.” But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.) Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.” But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!”” For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him.

“Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of several musical staves. The staves are white with black lines, and various musical notes, including quarter and eighth notes, are visible. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down at the staves, which are slightly curved. The overall tone is soft and artistic.

When Jesus Wept VCC Choir

SERMON

Working the Parade



RESPONSIVE HYMN - CH 196

Go to Dark Gethsemane (v 1-3)

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned,
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
learn of him to bear the cross.

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

OFFERING

Albinoni Trio Sonata op 1 no 1 Grave
Tomasz, Elizabeth, Tiffany and Jinseok



DOXOLOGY – CH 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below; praise
him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

A scenic view of a mountain range at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of soft orange, pink, and blue. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some green pine trees growing on the slopes. The word "PRAYERS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

PRAYERS



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CLOSING HYMN -

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

2 From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

*Sing
Amen!*

BLESSING



**GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND
SERVE THE LORD.**

THANKS BE TO GOD

POSTLUDE

Tomasz Pietek (organ)