

Scriptures March 24, 2024

First Reading

Psalm 118:1-4 (NRSV)

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

³ Let the house of Aaron say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

Psalm 118:14-17 (NRSV)

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Psalm 118:21-24 (NRSV)

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]

Second Reading

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV)

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Third Reading

Mark 15:1-39 (NRSV)

Jesus before Pilate

15 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. **2** Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' **3** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. **4** Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' **5** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. **7** Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. **8** So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. **9** Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' **10** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. **12** Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do^[a] with the man you call^[b] the King of the Jews?' **13** They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' **14** Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters^[c]); and they called together the whole cohort. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18** And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' **19** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. **20** 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.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²¹ 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. ²² Then they brought Jesus^[d] to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.^[e] ²⁹ Those who passed by derided^[f] him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!' ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah,^[g] the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land^[h] until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'^[i] ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he^[j] breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'^[k]