

**PALM GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40** Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem  
(ISV)

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, He travelled on and went up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As He approached Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples on ahead. <sup>30</sup> "Go into the village ahead of you," He said. "As you enter, you will find a colt tied up that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it along. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you why you are untying it, say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went off and found it as Jesus had told them. <sup>33</sup> While they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> The disciples answered, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it, and Jesus sat upon it. <sup>36</sup> As He was riding along, people kept spreading their coats on the road. <sup>37</sup> He was now approaching the descent from the Mount of Olives. The whole crowd of disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice because of all the miracles they had seen. <sup>38</sup> They said, "How blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd told Jesus, "Teacher, tell Your disciples to be quiet." <sup>40</sup> He replied, "I tell you, if they were quiet, the stones would cry out!"

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a** The obedience of the Lord's servant  
(ESV)

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. <sup>7</sup> But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. <sup>9</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16** (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. <sup>10</sup> My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. <sup>11</sup> Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbours and an object of dread to my closest friends— those who see me on the street flee from me. <sup>12</sup> I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. <sup>13</sup> For I hear many whispering, ‘Terror on every side!’ They conspire against me and plot to take my life. <sup>14</sup> But I trust in You, LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ <sup>15</sup> My times are in Your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. <sup>16</sup> Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unfailing love.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11** Christ - obedient servant and exalted Lord (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**GOSPEL: Luke 23:1-49** Jesus' suffering and death (HCSB)

<sup>1</sup> Then their whole assembly rose up and brought Him [Jesus] before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> They began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this man subverting our nation, opposing payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is the Messiah, a King.” <sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You have said it.” <sup>4</sup> Pilate then told the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no grounds for charging this man.” <sup>5</sup> But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He started even to here.” <sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> Finding that He was under Herod’s

jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days. <sup>8</sup> Herod was very glad to see Jesus; for a long time he had wanted to see Him because he had heard about Him and was hoping to see some miracle performed by Him. <sup>9</sup> So he kept asking Him questions, but Jesus did not answer him. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing Him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod, with his soldiers, treated Him with contempt, mocked Him, dressed Him in a brilliant robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That very day Herod and Pilate became friends. Previously, they had been hostile toward each other. <sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You have brought me this man as one who subverts the people. But in fact, after examining Him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse Him of. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, because he sent Him back to us. Clearly, He has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will have Him whipped and then release Him.” [<sup>17</sup> For according to the festival he had to release someone to them. <sup>18</sup> Then they all cried out together, “Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup> (He had been thrown into prison for a rebellion that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify Him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why? What has this man done wrong? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have Him whipped and then release Him.” <sup>23</sup> But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And their voices won out. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand <sup>25</sup> and released the one they were asking for, who had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will. <sup>26</sup> As they led Him away, they seized Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, and laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large crowd of people followed Him, including women who were mourning and lamenting Him. <sup>28</sup> But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children. <sup>29</sup> Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘The women without children, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed, are fortunate!’ <sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’

<sup>31</sup> For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup> Two others—criminals—were also led away to be executed with Him. <sup>33</sup> When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. [<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."] And they divided His clothes and cast lots. <sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and even the leaders kept scoffing: "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is God's Messiah, the Chosen One!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked Him. They came offering Him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and said, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" <sup>38</sup> An inscription was above Him: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at Him: "Aren't You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other answered, rebuking him: "Don't you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, because we're getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" <sup>43</sup> And He said to him, "I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise." <sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, <sup>45</sup> because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. <sup>46</sup> And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit." Saying this, He breathed His last. <sup>47</sup> When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous!" <sup>48</sup> All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. <sup>49</sup> But all who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.