READINGS PALM/PASSION SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 2025

First Reading **Isaiah 50:4-7**

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.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backwards.
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.
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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him, for in him he delights.'

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading **Philippians 2:6-11**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke Luke 22:14-23:56

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ *Christ. S. Speaker or speakers other than Christ.*

N. When the hour came, Jesus reclined at table, and the Apostles with him. And he said to them,

✠ I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

N. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,

✠ Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

N. And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

✠ This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

N. And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,

✠ This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!

N. And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them,

✠ The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

N. Peter said to him,

S. Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.

N. Jesus said,

✠ I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.

N. And he said to them,

✠ When I sent you out with no money bag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?

N. They said,

S. Nothing.

N. He said to them,

But now let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfilment.

N. And they said,

S. Look, Lord, here are two swords.

N. And he said to them,

It is enough.

N. And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them,

Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

N. And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying,

Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.

N. And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

N. While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him,

Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

N. And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said,

S. Lord, shall we strike with the sword?

N. And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

No more of this!

N. And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him,

Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

N. Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said,

S. This man also was with him.

N. But he denied it, saying,

S. Woman, I do not know him.

N. And a little later someone else saw him and said,

S. You also are one of them.

N. But Peter said,

S. Man, I am not.

N. And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying,

S. Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.

N. But Peter said,

S. Man, I do not know what you are talking about.

N. And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

S. Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?

N. And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said,

S. If you are the Christ, tell us.

N. But he said to them,

If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

N. So they all said,

S. Are you the Son of God, then?

N. And he said to them,

You say that I am.

N. Then they said,

S. What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.

N. Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

S. We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.

N. And Pilate asked him,

S. Are you the King of the Jews?

N. And he answered him,

You have said so.

N. Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

S. I find no guilt in this man.

N. But they were urgent, saying,

S. He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.

N. When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in

splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them,

S. You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.

N. But they all cried out together,

S. Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.

N. A man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting,

S. Crucify, crucify him!

N. A third time he said to them,

S. Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.

N. But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said,

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

N. Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said,

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

N. And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

S. He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!

N. The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying,

S. If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!

N. There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying,

S. Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

N. But the other rebuked him, saying,

S. Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.

N. And he said,

S. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
N. And he said to him,

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
N. It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!
N. And having said this he breathed his last.
All kneel for a period of silence.
N. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying,
S. Certainly this man was innocent!
N. And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.
Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ