

PALM SUNDAY, 2020
Virtual Grace

Sue to Quire
Zack to Ambo

Organ Prelude - 1 stanza, "All glory, laud and honor" (*Hymnal 1982, #154*)

Zack - *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Hello and welcome to "Virtual Grace"
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA.
I'm Zach Wyckoff, a member of our parish Vestry, the Choir,
and head Sacristan.
When things settle down and we're able to travel again,
we hope you might visit us in person,
and we ask you to support our ministries with your contributions.

This is an odd time for us all.
And especially this Holy Week -
with the special services we would hope to share together.
Nonetheless, we are preparing Virtual Grace broadcasts for these Holy Days.

For today, this Palm Sunday,
we have placed a table outside the main tower
with palms for anyone to drive by and take to your home.
Please do come and wave your palms of praise to our Savior Christ.

Join us in the coming days for this Holy Week's Virtual celebrations.
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and certainly Easter Day.
And if you are able, offer your sacrifices in donations to Grace Church.

Remember, if you are in any pastoral need
call Fr. Ed at any time, 24/7.
No matter the virus, He is ready to come to your spiritual aid.

+ 2 +

Fr. Ed Come now, and let us bless the Lord.

*Zack retrieves the Processional Cross,
Zack & Fr. Ed stand at Altar Gate*

Fr. Ed In the name of God the Creator, ✚ the Sustainer, the Sanctifier.

*Zack goes with Cross to the side of the Altar.
Fr. Ed to behind the Altar.*

Let us pray:

We praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Holy water is sprinkled on the fronds of palm.

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

All **Hosanna in the highest.**

Zack replaces the Cross and goes to Quire.

from Psalm 24:

Antiphonal by half-verse; Zack chants first half, Sue and Fr. Ed chant second half.

Z ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *

S & E and the King of glory shall come in.

Z ⁸ “Who is this King of glory?” *

S & E “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.”

Z ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; *

S & E and the King of glory shall come in.

Z ¹⁰ "Who is he, this King of glory?"

S & E "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

Psalm 24: 7-10

Zack sits;

Sue goes to Ambo;

Fr. Ed goes to side.

Sue GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to St. Matthew:

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:1-4, 7-9

Hear ends to Reading.

Sue goes to Quire;

Fr. Ed to Ambo.

Fr. Ed

MEDITATION

It is in the strangest things that God shows a mystery.

It was back in 2005, I was to be on sabbatical,

my first time to spend the whole summer at Philmont,

the national Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Was only there for a week a couple of years prior.

First time ever to the southwest.

And now preparing for a whole summer “where the mountains meet the plains.”

So, my first parish hosted the local library,

and a few weeks before I was heading south by southwest

the library had a book sale.

Well, you know me and books,

and as the rector in the parish hall,

I get to sneak in before the sale begins.

Murder mysteries, classic works, a novel about an early missionary in New Mexico,

and a book of poetry - about the southwest.

OK, Holy Spirit,

And I glance through it.

One about The Mexican Burro.

With a cross over it's spine and down it's shoulders.

Really?

OK, it's poetic licence, I thought.

Then a few weeks later I'm driving my Chaplain's Suburban up a dusty road

and come across some donkeys.

OK, I learned the difference between mules, donkeys and burros.

And these light brown burros in the field.

I stopped at a cattle gate, got out of my Suburban to unlock,

and looked at this mother beast with her young foal.

Oh, my gosh - there is a cross.

Down the spine of this light brown coat is a dark brown stripe.

And across the shoulder blade, a horizontal stripe of dark.

The poet, reflected on that Mexican Burro with its crossed back

and suggests this as the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem,

then loaded with gold, frankincense and myrrh,

brought the Holy Family to safety in Egypt,

and 30 years later engaged to carry our Savior through the gates of Jerusalem.

What would be the possibility?

Not that this could be the same burro all those years,

but that in those few weeks before heading out to New Mexico

I would find two books in this little 'hick town' library book sale.

I say there is no such thing as coincidence, or serendipity.

I call it Spirit-ivity: God working behind the scenes.

And that's when a shiver goes up my spine!

I don't know how long a donkey in the first century would live - 30, 40 years?

But I think about that donkey and just maybe,

just maybe she was honored to bear the weight of our blessed Mother,

and into safety in exile,

and our Savior to glory, laud and honor.

A mule, domesticated, and a burro, not so, are not the most friendly creatures.
They are base and ornery and do only what they want.
Just like human beings.
Maybe this is our message this Palm Sunday.
That while we may be ornery and disagreeable, and face it, smelly,
maybe, just maybe, we too can bear the cross on our back,
and carry Christ into glory.

I wonder where our mother burro was at Way of the Cross,
did she follow behind?
and at the transferral of the Body to the Tomb,
and at the Resurrection.

Was she chewing on the grass in the garden, watching?

Fr. Ed *The CREED*

Let us now profess our communal faith
in the words of our Baptismal Covenant with the Apostles' Creed,
saying:

I believe in God,

All the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.

+ 7 +

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection ☩ of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Fr. Ed steps aside;
Sue comes to Ambo.*

Sue *PRAYERS*

Form II, BCP p. 385

In peace, joy, and humbleness of heart, let us pray:

silence for a moment

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our own Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people.

And I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who are isolated from their community of faith. Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor; the sick, especially Dorothy, Thomas, Brandon, Keegan, Jane, Linda and Peter; Luisa; _____
the hungry; the oppressed, and anxious, especially the Shadle family;
and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for those anticipating death. Pray for the dying.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially those who have died by violent acts, and complications of the coronavirus. Pray for those who have died.

I ask your thanksgiving for families with whom we live and love; for first responders, health-care workers and all who offer of themselves for the betterment of others. Pray for all for whom you care.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

O God, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Sue to Quire;
Fr. Ed to Ambo.*

Fr. Ed *CONFESSIO*

Let us now confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

silence for a moment

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith, strengthen us in all goodness, ✚ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Amen.

+ 9 +

Let us now pray together in the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

Our Father...

Fr. Ed moves to side;

Sue goes to Ambo;

Zack retrieves the Cross and stands at the Altar Gate, facing the Altar.

Sue *BLESSING*

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Ed goes to organ;

Sue goes to Altar to get palms;

Zack with Cross leads her with palms back to the Tower.

Organ Postlude - 1 stanza of "My Song is Love Unknown" (*Hymnal 1982, #458*)

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

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