

PALM SUNDAY

Yr A-B-C

Reading 1

Citation: Isaiah 50:4-7

Isaiah, Chap. 50, verses 4-7

Often referred to as the "Suffering Servant" passage. Nonetheless, Isaiah is defining the role and expectations of the prophet among his own people. He recognizes the gift of skills and prophecy that God has given to him. He then describes how he behaves among his people who accuse him of all kinds of unacceptable behavior. He reminds his people, though, that he accepts both gift and responsibility because they are the Will of God for him, not his own, human desires. He points out that he has transcended the limits of his humanity. So, in like manner, the passage is said to foretell Jesus' behavior.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary

(Pause)

a word

that will rouse them,

(very short pause)

Morning after morning

(almost urgent) (short Pause)

he opens my ear

that I may hear;

(short Pause)

and I have not rebelled,

(short Pause)

have not turned back.

(very short pause)

I gave my back to those who beat me,

(short Pause)

my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;

(short Pause)

my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

(stress the 2 "t's")

The Lord GOD is my help,

(sincere)

therefore

I am not disgraced;

(short Pause)

I have set my face like flint,

(short Pause)

knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord.

PALM SUNDAY

Yr A-B-C

Reading 2

Citation: Philippians 2:6-11

Philippians, Chap. 2: Verses 6-11

Paul's words flow readily from the gist of the 1st Reading. Now, however, he relates them directly to Jesus. Paul is excited about this realization and sincerely wants his Philippians to take them to heart (since they were being severely persecuted at the time). Be the convinced, excited, solicitous Paul!

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God, (short Pause)
did not regard equality with God (short Pause)
something to be grasped. (strong – each syllable of “grasped” ?)

Rather, (short Pause)
he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, (very short pause)
coming in human likeness; (short Pause)
and found human in appearance, (very short Pause)
he humbled himself, (slow on “humbled”) (short Pause)
becoming obedient to the point of death, (almost unbelievable!)
even death on a cross. (Pause)

Because of this, (short Pause)
God greatly exalted him (short Pause)
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, (short Pause)
that at the name of Jesus (short Pause)
every knee should bend, (short Pause)
of those in heaven (short Pause)
and on earth (short Pause)
and under the earth, (short Pause)

and every tongue confess (emphasize each word!)
that Jesus Christ is Lord, (powerful!) (short Pause)
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

PALM SUNDAY
Year C

Passion
LONGER FORM

*Note: Shorter Form =
Luke 23: 1-49*

This is a very dramatic story and essentially consists of a narration together with brief dialogs from key figures in the story. The Narrator is the story-teller. This demands that, where appropriate, the telling of the story include emotion, word-emphasis, controlled pace, varied voice tones and different lengths of pauses. For example, the pace picks up describing the apostles' use of a sword in the garden. The key figures' speeches are passionate and reflect the beliefs, intentions, and personality characteristics of the people involved. For example, soldiers may be pictured as gruff, Pilate as a supreme ruler and perhaps arrogant, Jesus as patient and loving (despite His travails), Peter is increasingly frightened when confronted in the courtyard, etc.

Citation: Luke, Chap. 22, Verses 14 – Chap. 23, Verse 56
Luke 22:14 – 23:56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

When the hour came,
Jesus took his place at table with the apostles. (very short pause)

He said to them,
"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you
before I suffer, (very short pause)
for, I tell you, I shall not eat it again (ignore the commas)
until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." (short pause)

Then he took a cup, (you're not the priest; be the story-teller)
gave thanks,
and said,
"Take this and share it among yourselves; (very short pause)
for I tell you
that from this time on
I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." (short pause)

Then he took the bread, (you're not the priest; be the story-teller)
said the blessing, broke it,
and gave it to them, saying, (very short pause)
"This is my body, which will be given for you;
do this in memory of me." (short pause)

And likewise the cup
after they had eaten,
saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, (very sincere)
which will be shed for you. (very short pause)

Proclamation Format

"And yet behold,
the hand of the one who is to betray me is with me on the table;
for the Son of Man indeed goes
as it has been determined;
but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed."
(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(almost sad but firm)
(parenthetical)
(Pause)

And they began to debate among themselves
who among them would do such a deed.
Then
an argument broke out among them
about which of them should be regarded as the greatest.
(quieter tone)
(almost alarm!)
(very short pause)

He said to them,
"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them
and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors';
but among you
it shall not be so.
(very short pause)

Rather,
let the greatest among you be as the youngest,
and the leader as the servant.
(the "lesson" for all of us) (very short pause)

For who is greater:
the one seated at table or the one who serves?
Is it not the one seated at table?
(questioning tone)
(very short pause)
(short pause)

I am among you as the one who serves.
It is you who have stood by me in my trials;
and I confer a kingdom on you,
just as my Father has conferred one on me,
that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom;
and you will sit on thrones
judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(parenthetical ?)
(voice gets more insistent to end)
"
" (short pause)

"Simon,
Simon,
behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat,
but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail;
and once you have turned back,
you must strengthen your brothers."
(sadness)
(voice goes down)
(intimate advice)
(very short pause)

He said to him,
"Lord,
I am prepared to go to prison
and to die with you."
(very short pause)
("Believe me!" tone)
(very short pause)

But he replied,
"I tell you, Peter,
(sadly)

Proclamation Format

before the cock crows this day,
you will deny three times that you know me." (very short pause)

He said to them,
"When I sent you forth without a money bag
or a sack
or sandals,
were you in need of anything?" { voice gradually goes
{ up from phrase to
{ phrase (very short pause)

"No, nothing,"
they replied. (very short pause)

He said to them,
"But now
one who has a money bag should take it,
and likewise a sack, (very short pause)
and one who does not have a sword
should sell his cloak and buy one. (very short pause)

For I tell you
that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me, namely, (very short pause)
He was counted among the wicked; (very short pause)

and indeed
what is written about me is coming to fulfillment." (short pause)

Then they said,
"Lord,
look,
there are two swords here." (very short pause)

But he replied,
"It is enough!" (Jesus is frustrated with them!) (short pause)

Then going out,
he went,
as was his custom, (parenthetical expression)
to the Mount of Olives,
and the disciples followed him. (very short pause)

When he arrived at the place
he said to them,
"Pray that you may not undergo the test." (a warning!) (short pause)

After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them
and kneeling,
he prayed, saying, (very short pause)
"Father, (almost pleading?)

Proclamation Format

if you are willing,
take this cup away from me; (very short pause)
still,
not my will but yours be done." (short pause)

And to strengthen him
an angel from heaven appeared to him. (short pause)

He was in such agony (anguish, deep sadness)
and he prayed so fervently
that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. (short pause)

When he rose from prayer
and returned to his disciples, (parenthetical)
he found them sleeping
from grief. (very short pause)

He said to them,
"Why are you sleeping? (gentle)
Get up
and pray that you may not undergo the test." (beseeching!)

While he was still speaking,
a crowd approached
and in front
was one of the Twelve,
a man named Judas. (slower pace) (very short pause)

He went up to Jesus to kiss him. (very short pause)

Jesus said to him,
"Judas,
are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (bit of sarcasm, here?) (very short pause)

His disciples realized what was about to happen, (This sentence -- very excited!)
and they asked,
"Lord, shall we strike with a sword?" (faster pace)
And one of them struck the high priest's servant
and cut off his right ear. (very short pause)

But Jesus said in reply,
"Stop, (Jesus is angry!) (raise voice volume)
no more of this!" (insistent)

Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him. (gentle, soft voice)

And Jesus said to the chief priests
and temple guards and elders who had come for him, (very short pause)

Proclamation Format

"Have you come out as against a robber,
with swords and clubs?

Day after day

I was with you in the temple area,
and you did not seize me;

but this is your hour,
the time for the power of darkness."

{Jesus almost can't
{believe what they
{are doing!

(very short pause)

(discouraged? at least sad)

(short pause)

After arresting him

they led him away

and took him into the house of the high priest;

(very short pause)

Peter was following at a distance.

(very short pause)

They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard
and sat around it,

and Peter sat down with them.

(very short pause)

When a maid saw him seated in the light,
she looked intently at him and said,

"This man too was with him."

(insistent) (raise voice volume)

But he denied it saying,

"Woman, I do not know him."

(angry!) (very short pause)

A short while later

someone else saw him and said,

"You too are one of them";

but Peter answered,

"My friend,

I am not."

(insisting)

(quietly; Peter is cautious!)

(insistent) (very short pause)

About an hour later,

still another insisted,

"Assuredly, this man too was with him,
for he also is a Galilean."

(strong, insistent voice)

("Galilean" – disdain)

But Peter said,

"My friend,

I do not know what you are talking about."

(touch of anger)

(voice of total denial!)

Just as he was saying this,

the cock crowed,

and the Lord turned and looked at Peter;

and Peter remembered the word of the Lord,

how he had said to him,

"Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

(very short pause)

(short pause)

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

(short pause)

Proclamation Format

He went out and began to weep bitterly. (as much sadness and grief as you can muster) (Pause)

The men who held Jesus in custody were ridiculing and beating him. (Narrator tone)
They blindfolded him and questioned him, saying, (very short pause)
"Prophesy!
Who is it that struck you?" { It's a big joke!
{ " "
And they reviled him in saying many other things against him. (short pause)

When day came
the council of elders of the people met,
both chief priests and scribes, (parenthetical)
and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. (very short pause)

They said,
"If you are the Christ, tell us," (very authoritative)

but he replied to them, (very short pause)
"If I tell you,
you will not believe,
and if I question,
you will not respond.
But from this time on
the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." { quiet confidence
{ throughout
{
{
{ + (short pause)

They all asked, (very short pause)
"Are you then the Son of God?" (very short pause)
He replied to them, "You say that I am." (short pause)

Then they said,
"What further need have we for testimony?
We have heard it from his own mouth." { shock!
{ " " (short pause)

Then the whole assembly of them arose and brought him before Pilate. **[Shorter form begins here]** (Pause)

They brought charges against him, saying,
"We found this man misleading our people;
he opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar
and maintains that he is the Christ,
a king." { almost whining!
{ righteous indignation!
{ almost disdain!
{ defiance! short pause)

Pilate asked him, (say the next line with disdain; arrogance)
"Are you the king of the Jews?" (short pause)

He said to him in reply,
"You say so." (honest admission) (short pause)

Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds,
"I find this man not guilty." (raise voice volume)

Proclamation Format

But they were adamant and said,
"He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea,
from Galilee where he began
even to here."
(they're mad!)
(of course we're right!)
" (very short pause)

On hearing this
Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean;
and upon learning that he was under Herod's jurisdiction,
he sent him to Herod
who was in Jerusalem at that time.
(relief; he dodged it!)
(parenthetical) (short pause)

Herod was very glad to see Jesus;
he had been wanting to see him for a long time,
for he had heard about him
and had been hoping to see him perform some sign.
He questioned him at length,
but he gave him no answer.
{He's very happy!
"
"
(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(short pause)

The chief priests and scribes,
meanwhile,
stood by accusing him harshly.
(very short pause)

Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously
and mocked him,
and
after clothing him in resplendent garb,
he sent him back to Pilate.
(sadness in voice)
(very short pause)

Herod and Pilate became friends that very day,
even though they had been enemies formerly.
(parenthetical expression)

Pilate then summoned the chief priests,
the rulers,
and the people and said to them,
"You brought this man to me
and accused him of inciting the people to revolt.
I have conducted my investigation in your presence
and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, (short pause)
nor did Herod, (amazed)
for he sent him back to us.
(parenthetical expression)

So
no capital crime has been committed by him.
Therefore
I shall have him flogged and then release him."
(very short pause)
(arrogance; he's satisfied)

But all together they shouted out,
(be the excited crowd!)

Proclamation Format

"Away with this man!
Release Barabbas to us."

{ Raise volume; insist
{ “

-- Now Barabbas had been imprisoned
for a rebellion that had taken place in the city
and for murder.--

(You're a Reporter)

(very short pause)

Again Pilate addressed them,
still wishing to release Jesus,
but they continued their shouting,

(almost parenthetical)

"Crucify him! Crucify him!"

(You're frenzied, loud!)

Pilate addressed them a third time,

(very short pause)

"What evil has this man done?
I found him guilty of no capital crime.
Therefore
I shall have him flogged
and then release him.

(he's mystified!)

(insisting)

(quiet finality – the ruler speaks!)

With loud shouts, however,
they persisted in calling for his crucifixion,
and their voices prevailed.

{ excited
{ “ (short pause)

(deep sadness) (short pause)

The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.

(Narrator) (Pause)

So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder,
for whom they asked,
and he handed Jesus over to them
to deal with as they wished.

(Reporter)

(almost parenthetical)

(slow – each word) (Pause)

As they led him away
they took hold of a certain Simon,
a Cyrenian,
who was coming in from the country;
and after laying the cross on him,
they made him carry it behind Jesus.

(Reporter)

(very short pause)

(short pause)

A large crowd of people followed Jesus,
including many women who mourned and lamented him.

(Reporter)

(very short pause)

Jesus turned to them and said,
"Daughters of Jerusalem,
do not weep for me;
weep instead for yourselves and for your children,
for indeed,
the days are coming when people will say,

(very short pause)

{ Jesus is somber; quiet
{
{ (very short pause)
{
{ (very short pause)

Proclamation Format

'Blessed are the barren,
the wombs that never bore
and the breasts that never nursed.'
At that time people will say to the mountains,
'Fall upon us!'
and to the hills, 'Cover us!'
for if these things are done when the wood is green
what will happen when it is dry?"

{ somber, louder?)
{
{
{ (Pleading
{ (“
{ (“
{ (sadness
{ (“ (Pause)

Now two others,
both criminals,
were led away with him to be executed.
When they came to the place called
the Skull,
they crucified him and the criminals there,
one on his right,
the other on his left.

(Reporter)
(NOT parenthetical)
(very short pause)

Then Jesus said,
"Father,
forgive them,
they know not what they do."

(very short pause)
(sadness)
(mean it!)
(sadness) (Pause)

They divided his garments by casting lots.
The people stood by and watched;

(Reporter)
(very short pause)

the rulers, meanwhile,
sneered at him and said,

(a little editorial disdain?)
(very short pause)

"He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."

{ very sarcastic
{ “ (short pause)

Even the soldiers jeered at him.
As they approached to offer him wine
they called out,

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

"If you are King of the Jews,
save yourself."

{ very sarcastic
{ “ (short pause)

Above him there was an inscription that read,
"This is the King of the Jews."

(very short pause)
(matter-of-factly)

Now one of the criminals hanging there
reviled Jesus,
saying,

"Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us."

{ angry! fearful!
{ “ (very short pause)

Proclamation Format

The other, however,
rebuking him,
said in reply, (very short pause)

"Have you no fear of God, (question in your voice)
for you are subject to the same condemnation? (statement of fact!)
And indeed, "
we have been condemned justly, "
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, (very short pause)
but this man has done nothing criminal." (finality) (very short pause)

Then he said,
"Jesus, (solicitous)
remember me when you come into your kingdom." (short pause)

He replied to him,
"Amen,
I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise." { kindness throughout this
{ sentence
(firmness) (short pause)

It was now about noon
and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon (surprise)
because of an eclipse of the sun. (parenthetical expression)

Then the veil of the temple
was torn down the middle. (emphatic) (very short pause)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Father, (raise volume) (sad confidence) (short pause)
into your hands I commend my spirit"; (short pause)
and when he had said this he breathed his last. (PAUSE)

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

The centurion who witnessed what had happened
glorified God and said, (very short pause)

"This man was innocent
beyond doubt." (emphatic!) (short pause)

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle
saw what had happened, (Reporter)
they returned home
beating their breasts;

but all his acquaintances stood at a distance,
including the women who had followed him from Galilee (parenthetical)
and saw these events. (Pause)

Proclamation Format

[Shorter Form ends here]

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action.

(parenthetical)
(very short pause)

He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God.

(parenthetical)

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

(very short pause)

After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(slow pace each phrase) (very short pause)

It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin.

(very short pause)

The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils.

(very short pause)

(very short pause)
(short pause)

Then they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

(shift tone – Reporter)
(almost parenthetical) (PAUSE)

The Gospel of the Lord.